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1 WESTERN INTERIOR SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
2 PUBLIC MEETING
3 Aniak Community Hall
4 October 14, 1999
5 9:00 a.m. o'clock
6 Aniak, Alaska
7

8 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

9
10 Ronald Sam, Chairman
11 Raymond L. Collins
12 Henry Deacon
13 Samson Henry
14 Benedict Jones
15 Carl Morgan
16 Jack L. Reakoff
17 Michael Stickman
18
19
20 Vince Mathews, Regional Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to reconvene. I'll call the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Council meeting back to order. A quick roll call, Vince, just for the record.

MR. MATHEWS: You want a roll call?

CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: That's fine. Carl Morgan.

MR. MORGAN: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ray Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Henry Deacon.

MR. DEACON: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Benedict Jones.

MR. JONES: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Jack Reakoff.

MR. REAKOFF: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Ron Sam.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Micky Stickman.

MR. STICKMAN: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Samson Henry.

MR. HENRY: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: And then the two guests are here for, David James and Gerald Nicholia are here for Eastern Interior.

CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you very much.

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1 We have a quorum. We're a little late but our plane won't
2 leave until about 7:00 tonight so we have all day. The
3 bulk of our meeting today will cover the Koyukuk River
4 intensive moose management plan. The people aren't here so
5 at this time I would like to know if any agency or staff
6 have to leave right away? Anyone else has an early flight?
7 We're under D, agency reports. Do you have a list, Vince?

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, we
10 already covered parts of Alaska Department of Fish and
11 Game, Subsistence Division, I believe completed their
12 presentation.

13
14 MS. WHEELER: (Nods affirmatively)

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And we talked during
17 break this morning that the wildlife conservation, we may
18 want to couple that with the Koyukuk River presentation if
19 that's okay with the State on that. Is that all right,
20 David?

21
22 MR. JAMES: That's all right with me.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Do you want to -- there's a
25 little confusion on the agenda. And basically each agency
26 gives a report. It is an option now if David wants to give
27 a general report not talking about the Koyukuk or if he
28 wants to wait until Randy's here to couple it with the
29 Koyukuk.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: David.

32
33 MR. JAMES: That's at the Chair's call, I
34 can do it now or I can do it then, too.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could you do it now then?

37
38 MR. JAMES: Sure.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry to put him on the spot
41 but that way he can -- and then from there we would go into
42 commercial fisheries if they're ready after David, and then
43 sport fish and Bureau of Land Management, et cetera. As
44 many as we can pick up and then when Randy comes maybe
45 we'll want to reaccess that ordering.

46
47 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair, I'm David James with
48 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I work with the
49 Division of Wildlife Conservation. I'm the management
50 coordinator for Interior and the Eastern North Slope of

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1 Alaska.

2

3 I'd like to address five topics this morning. The
4 first will be a brief statement about the Koyukuk Moose
5 Management planning effort. The second will be Unit 19(D)
6 east wolf predation control. Third will be some issues in
7 the GASH area. Fourth will be intensive management. And
8 fish we'll say something about hunting regulation
9 enforcement on the Koyukuk River this past fall. Well, I
10 take that back, the fifth one we'll have to wait until
11 Randy gets here because we need the information to come in
12 with him.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: That sounds good.

15

16 MR. JAMES: First of all, just some general
17 statements about the Koyukuk Moose Management planning
18 effort. As we've already mentioned Randy Rogers will be
19 here later this morning to give details, and I just want to
20 confine my comments to a few general observations.

21

22 You may recall, at least, some of you, that last
23 year in Allakaket it was this Council and the Koyukuk Fish
24 and Game Advisory Committee that argued long and hard to
25 get a serious planning effort a review of the Moose
26 Management program up there. On the behalf of the
27 Department at the time I made the commitment that I would
28 do that and I think we've followed through. I recall that
29 years ago when I attended a work shop by two of the nations
30 leading public processing and planning experts they pointed
31 out one thing about public planning processes that deal
32 with complicated issues; they say they're always messy.
33 There's no neat way to do it, there's no cookbook. And I
34 think we can verify that based on our experience so far
35 with the Koyukuk effort. It has been messy and we admit
36 it's been far from perfect. Unfortunately, I also have to
37 admit we haven't been able, yet, to make all the interests
38 happy with the direction we're going, however, we're going
39 to keep trying and I think we can get there. Thanks go,
40 mainly to the work group members who have volunteered their
41 time and has come at a dear cost starting in May throughout
42 the summer, they've met even on Sundays in order to get as
43 far as that group has gotten so far. Also thanks are due
44 to the governmental and non-governmental entities that have
45 participated as technical advisors. That's been extremely
46 valuable. And then also there have been individuals, not
47 on the work group, who have shown up to also help out with
48 the discussions and issues that that group struggles with.

49

50 If luck is with us we'll have a package that we can

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1 present to the Board of Game in March of next year. I just
2 want to thank everybody for their efforts along those lines
3 and of course, later, Randy will fill in some of the
4 details on that effort.

5
6 I also wanted to say something about the 19(D) east
7 wolf predation control. You may be aware that there is a
8 regulation on the books, so to speak, and the Alaska code
9 authorizing wolf predation control on a portion of the
10 upper Kuskokwim river, 19(D) east. So why isn't anything
11 happening? Well, that's very simple. The Governor has a
12 policy that has to be met in order to initiate a wolf
13 control program. The Governor has said, first of all, it
14 has to be based on sound biology. We have to have the
15 facts in front of us to demonstrate that that's causing the
16 problem and if we did something about it, it would be to
17 the benefit of the wildlife population, either moose or
18 caribou. The second part of that policy is that the
19 Governor insisted it makes economic sense. In other words,
20 we don't want to spend a lot of money and effort if there
21 is really no payback. And I realize, and I'm sure the
22 Governor does, too, that you can't always measure that just
23 straight across in dollars but nevertheless there's some
24 standard there that has to be met. Then the third part of
25 the policy is the real ringer, there has to be broad public
26 support. I think that's probably the most difficult of the
27 three criteria. In fact, with 19(D) east, I would argue
28 that we have met the first two but we obviously have not
29 met the third because if we had we would probably be
30 involved in a wolf control project there right now. So
31 what the heck is broad public support? I have to admit
32 that I don't know exactly and, neither, apparently, do any
33 members of the Board of Game. They met with the
34 Commissioner this past summer during July to hash over this
35 issue. They went into it in great depth, with a high level
36 of frustration.

37
38 One conclusion I came to is I could share with you,
39 I can give you one example of what is not broad public
40 support and another example of what is broad public
41 support. The is not is exactly 19(D) east. Some of you
42 were present two or three years, was it, that Governor
43 Knowles made a trip to McGrath, there were roughly 250
44 people sitting in the school auditorium, there was total
45 agreement among the entire crowd that wolf control should
46 be initiated as soon as possible. There was one speech
47 after another, and everybody was singing off the same sheet
48 of music. Will Mayo, representing TCC at the time made an
49 impassioned plea to move forward with the program. Dick
50 Bishop represented the Alaska Outdoor Council and made the

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1 same kind of speech, they could have had the same speech
2 writer. Everybody was singing from the same sheet of
3 music. I think it's safe to say that there was
4 overwhelming support within the local region to go ahead
5 with the program. By one measure of broad public support
6 that would seem to be successful. But the lesson we all
7 learn from it is that that's not enough. So we know, even
8 that level of support is not enough. So there we have one,
9 excuse me, I'm a wildlife biologist or at least I used to
10 be before I turned administrator, there we have one data
11 point on the end of the spectrum. We know that wasn't good
12 enough. Over here, we have another data point that
13 demonstrates what is enough and, that, of course, is our
14 Fortymile Caribou Recovery Plan. We have been able to move
15 forward with that. One obvious difference, of course, is
16 that's a non-lethal program; it involves sterilization. It
17 required, to-date, tens if not hundreds of thousands of
18 dollars to pull that thing off and years and years of
19 planning and bringing people together to reach agreement.
20 On the day that we captured the first wolf in that project,
21 what was that, about two years ago now or a year and a
22 half, the Governor and the Commissioner themselves were on
23 the telephone talking to special interests across the
24 nation who were, even, at that hour, attempting to shoot
25 this thing down. They stood their ground because the broad
26 public support, as they see it, was sufficient to enable
27 the program to go forward.

28
29 So there's two experiences, one, didn't work, one
30 has worked. Somewhere in between, where is the bar? How
31 high do we have to jump in order to make this work? And
32 the truth of the matter is we do not have a precise
33 definition for that. We don't know. Broad public support
34 is something you work toward and you know it when you see
35 it but you can't predict when you're going to get to it, I
36 guess, is the lesson that I've learned here. That would be
37 like the high jumper at a track meet, being told that
38 they're in the preliminaries and they have to clear six
39 feet in order to participate in the finals. Well, then you
40 know how high it is. But what if you were a high jumper
41 and you were told, okay, you got to jump a certain height
42 to qualify for the finals, just jump as high as you can, we
43 don't know where the bar is. And that's the best analogy
44 that I can come to. I don't want what I'm saying to be
45 misconstrued as being critical of my boss, who is the
46 Governor of the state of Alaska, what I'm saying is that in
47 the public right now, the subject of wolf control and,
48 especially lethal wolf control, is just a whole new
49 environment. And the political forces are substantial.

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1 As I mentioned there was a meeting between the
2 Commissioner representing, of course, his boss, the
3 Governor and the Board in Anchorage last summer. The board
4 members struggled all day long to come to an understanding
5 about just where is that bar, how high is it. They were
6 not able to come up with a clear-cut resolution to that.
7 They're still contemplating what some of the alternatives
8 may be. They have not found an answer yet. That's pretty
9 much as I see it where we stand right now with lethal wolf
10 control.

11
12 Moving right along into the GASH issues. The
13 enforcement part of that was covered yesterday in detail
14 and, I don't need to repeat anything that was explained
15 then. I do want to let you know that the question of ill-
16 defined borders for the river corridors along the Yukon
17 that describes closed area for that February winter hunt
18 are creating problems and you can expect that Toby Budreau
19 will be working with advisory committee and other
20 interested parties, including Fish and Wildlife protection
21 and coming up with a more clear-cut -- not more, with a
22 clear-cut definition of what that border entails so that we
23 eliminate that confusion and then we will be able to
24 monitor that hunt much better than it is being monitored
25 and run at this point. So that will be one proposal coming
26 up before the Board by their meeting in March.

27
28 We've made funds available, we will be conducting a
29 major moose population estimation survey over in that area,
30 I don't know exactly yet where it's going to be. Toby is
31 working on that. We realized that with the concern that's
32 been expressed from that area that what we obviously need
33 is more data so this will be one step in that direction,
34 we'll have more information to continue that discussion and
35 to bring before the advisory committee and the Council, if
36 they wish, as time goes on.

37
38 The new area biologist or fairly new, just a little
39 over a year now, Toby Budreau is very aware and is working
40 on how -- of the need to and is working on restructuring
41 his program to devote more time to the GASH area. The
42 challenge of serving both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim is a
43 logistic challenge that is not easy to overcome but we will
44 make some adjustments there, in his program there. As time
45 goes on, I think it will reflect that. That's our
46 intention, anyway. The kind of thing that he will be doing
47 is like he did this year on the Aniak -- on the Kuskokwim
48 River where he boated down to Aniak and stopping at all the
49 communities, meeting people, discussing issues, selling a
50 few licenses, issuing a few harvest tickets and that sort

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1 of thing. So it takes time. There's no replacement for
2 the face to face communication but he's working on it and
3 he knows it's important.

4
5 The next subject is intensive management. This is
6 a Legislatively mandated program. The Board of Game and
7 Department began implementing it in 1994. The early
8 efforts, however, to implement it were not real successful.
9 It suffered from several problems. Therefore, in an
10 attempt to solve those problems in 1998, the Board adapted
11 a regulation to help implement that statute. What they
12 were looking for was a regulation that would provide
13 structure and standardization and increase the overall
14 fairness when they applied that intensive management
15 requirement throughout the state. Also in 1998, they took
16 the first step that was required by that new regulation and
17 that was to identify populations of caribou and moose that
18 are important in providing for high levels of human
19 consumptive use. That was the first two steps. What we
20 are approaching now is the March 2000 meeting, comes
21 before, is to take that second step which is to establish
22 population objectives or population levels and harvest
23 levels for each of those populations. Unfortunately, but
24 perhaps not surprisingly, some of our attempts to present
25 this issue at Fish and Game committee meetings has not been
26 very successful. There's been a fairly high level of
27 confusion and misunderstanding. I think what may be
28 happening on the surface is that you look at the statute
29 and the regulation and you could easily build your
30 expectation up that something is automatically going to
31 kick in. We're automatically going to start habitat
32 manipulation. We're automatically going to initiate wolf
33 control and so on and so forth.

34
35 I want to emphasize, though, that the statute --
36 neither the statute nor the regulation assures that at all.
37 All they do is require the Board to go through a process of
38 reviewing the feasibility of initiating various management
39 tools to help increase the harvest or increase the
40 population level. When they go through that process after
41 reviewing all the facts before them, they may easily come
42 to the conclusion, in fact, I'm sure they will in some
43 cases, come to the conclusion that it would not be wise to
44 move forward and try to address the issue. We will be
45 continuing our attempts to clarify that in front of
46 advisory committee meetings and doing our best to help try
47 to keep that issue separate from all the other issues that
48 are somewhat but not directly interrelated.

49
50 The point is, that although we have an intensive

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1 management law that, on one hand, would seem to ensure a
2 wolf control action perhaps in the right circumstance, that
3 doesn't do anything to take away from the existing policy
4 for implementing wolf control that I just explained to you
5 a few minutes ago.

6
7 I don't want to leave an overly pessimistic picture
8 of what intensive management can deliver. The essence of
9 it is that there's concern among the Legislature and
10 throughout much of the public that they want the Department
11 to take a proactive stance on some of these issues when
12 harvest has to be cut back, when populations start to go
13 down instead of simply documenting it and standing by and
14 watching it, they want us to do what we can to help the
15 situation. And conceptually, there's no problem with that
16 we'll do everything we can just understand we're restricted
17 by certain policy and legal guidelines.

18
19 That's all I have to offer to the Council right
20 now, Mr. Chair. I'd be glad to answer any questions and
21 like I said, when Randy gets here we'll polish this off
22 with discussion of the Koyukuk Moose Management planning
23 effort.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, David. Do our
26 Council members have any questions?

27
28 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: Approximately how much did
33 that Fortymile wolf control project cost, ball park?

34
35 MR. JAMES: I just don't have that figure
36 right now but if you computed all the travel and per diem
37 for the people that are involved with it, Staff time and so
38 on and so forth, it's an interagency effort, you know, Fish
39 and Wildlife Service participated, BLM played a very -- and
40 continues to play a very big role and so on and so forth;
41 it'd be a substantial amount of money. The payoff in this
42 case is, you know, could be quite high. I guess kind of
43 like a gold mine, if you could hit a streak there it really
44 pays off but it didn't come cheap. And of course, the
45 results aren't assured. We won't know until we get there
46 if we do.

47
48 But I'm sorry, I just don't keep the books for that
49 but it's a lot.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: David, on this, trying to get
4 broad public support like in 19(D), is it -- are they going
5 to wait until that happens or what, I mean they've had the
6 local meetings and you've got total support of the local
7 area, are they going to gather more data to present the
8 case to the public in Anchorage or somewhere to try to get
9 support there or are we just going to let it sit? I mean
10 did they talk about this at the Board meeting, how they
11 would achieve greater support or do we just wait for it to
12 happen?

13

14 MR. JAMES: Yeah, I would almost think you
15 were sitting through the room during that discussion, Ray,
16 because that was exactly what several very frustrated Board
17 members were saying, well, what do we do; what can we do
18 then? And one of the alternatives thrown out was that
19 there should be another attempt to develop a state wide
20 consortium, another wolf planning effort, similar to what
21 was done in the early '90s, hopefully incorporating the
22 lessons that were learned the hard way because that effort
23 failed ultimately, and it's a long story why that failed.
24 The Board members considered that as a possible
25 alternative. Member Walter Samson emphasized the
26 educational, as he called it, perspective. He felt that we
27 needed to take a proactive stance and go out and educate
28 the public about, not just the biology but about the
29 economic impacts, ecological and social impacts on rural
30 areas when they don't have the kind of source or meat that
31 they need, et cetera, et cetera. So there were several
32 ideas and there was no, frankly, clear-cut schedule about
33 what exactly the next step is going to be. The impression
34 I had was that the Board wants to continue to work with the
35 Department to try to figure out a solution to this puzzle,
36 and that that means I don't know. Well, certainly one
37 thing it means is probably nothing's going to happen real
38 soon. But it's not because people don't care or they're
39 not thinking about it, they're struggling.

40

41 I might add to that is that one thing was
42 recognized is that it's very inefficient to jump around
43 from one of the state to the next, thinking that we would
44 implement a Fortymile caribou type planning effort in order
45 to make something to succeed. I mean it took three years
46 before we ever got started for crying out loud. And it's
47 widely and easily recognized in every area of the state, we
48 just -- you know, we can't do that. So that's when the
49 thought expanded back to how about if we could do an
50 umbrella plan, let's set up a master plan so to speak that

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1 would lay out the guidelines. These are the guideposts.
2 These are the kinds of situations where we will consider
3 wolf control. Over here, the kind of considerations where
4 we're just not going to. And using those guideposts, then
5 as individual regional issues came up then it would fit
6 underneath that umbrella so to speak. You know, it's easy
7 to wave my hands here and talk about the concept of doing
8 that but how the heck you nail the details together is,
9 well, it's something that nobody's figured out yet. And
10 once there's a change of administration, whether that
11 changes or not is conjecture.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

14

15 MR. COLLINS: I don't see where anything
16 would ever happen in the upper Kuskokwim then because the
17 dynamics are not the same as Fortymile where you had heavy
18 use by Fairbanks area and Anchorage area. The only people
19 that use 19(D) is local people, nobody else is going to pay
20 to come -- there's a few other residents that come in there
21 to hunt, it's closed to non-resident hunting, so people in
22 Anchorage are not going to get excited about it because
23 they're not being denied opportunities to hunt there like
24 Fortymile. So I don't know how -- and the local people
25 have done whatever they could. It's really frustrating.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray, good point
28 and needed to be expressed. Any further questions for
29 David James Henry.

30

31 MR. DEACON: On the wolf control. I've
32 been on TCCs executive board for many years and we've been
33 passing resolutions supporting the wolf control, so has
34 this Board here ever since I got on it we've been
35 expressing that and nothing's been done yet about it. And
36 it's kind of sad to hear that when the rural areas are
37 saying things like that. It seems like the Governor is
38 more interested in people from the Lower 48, listening to
39 them instead of listening to the people that put him in the
40 office. You know, that's all I have to say.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks Henry. Jack.

43

44 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering
45 if the Department ever considered doing, at least, in the
46 GASH area where we keep hearing about a lot of wolf
47 numbers, any like trapping schools for the local people
48 there to help increase harvest?

49

50 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair, yes, that's

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1 affirmative. In fact, although it's not for the GASH area,
2 at least, immediately, one of the first things on Toby's
3 plate is he's putting together some trapping schools. At
4 least I understand for the Kuskokwim. Now, I don't know,
5 maybe if he were here he could correct me, maybe he is also
6 looking at the GASH area. We do what we can. Our
7 experience so far is that that's just not going to get it.
8 As long as wolf fur is as low as it is on the market, there
9 might be an occasional situation where everything lines up
10 just right and simply heavy trapping makes a difference.
11 In most cases, we just can't mobilize that many trappers.
12 There's just not that much interest anymore.

13
14 But nevertheless, you know, we do still have a
15 modest but enthusiastic budget for trapping schools to try
16 to encourage that as much as possible.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: That was done up in the
21 McGrath area and it did help, in that, some people became
22 successful but like David said, it doesn't change the
23 situation because you can't trap enough in one year to make
24 up for what they'll make up for in pups next year. I mean
25 you're just kind of creating a little void that will be
26 filled up with next years crop of pups. So I don't think
27 it has much overall impact on the population.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
30 David? If not you'll be back in the hot seat when Randy
31 comes here. Thank you. Do we have commercial fisheries
32 here? Yes, okay.

33
34 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman, good morning,
35 members of the Council. My name is Dan Bergstrom. I'm
36 with the Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries
37 Division. I'm chinook and summer chum salmon management
38 biologist for the Yukon area. I've been involved in salmon
39 management on the Yukon River for 16 years and I started
40 working for the Department in 1974. We have several
41 handouts that we had in the back and, I think Vince
42 Golembeski, my assistant, has passed them around to each of
43 you. And Charlie Berkey, the area biologist for the
44 Kuskokwim is that the Y-K Delta RAC meeting so I'll be
45 giving a short summary of the Kuskokwim area for him.

46
47 First I'd like to explain that the Department's
48 mission statement priorities have not changed. Our charge
49 is to first protect Alaska's fish and wildlife resources by
50 managing them under the sustained yield principle and, two,

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1 maintain the subsistence priority and continue to provide
2 for commercial, sport and personal fishing on all waters
3 and, number three, to regain State management. The
4 Department is very interested in development of new
5 cooperative research and assessment projects. The use of
6 funding for such projects will be in the best interest for
7 the resource and all of the users.

8
9 Now, for the Kuskokwim area salmon season summary,
10 the salmon returns were very disappointing to the Kuskokwim
11 area in 1999. Subsistence, and then we have a report for
12 that that's entitled the preliminary 1999 Kuskokwim area
13 salmon fishery summary. And first covering the subsistence
14 fishery, appeared that chinook salmon catches were probably
15 adequate in the lower Kuskokwim River and Kuskokwim Bay
16 areas. Chinook catches in the middle and upper rivers took
17 longer to obtain. Chum catches for subsistence were lower
18 than usual throughout the river system. Some subsistence
19 fishers, knowing that the chums were low in abundance did
20 not put forth the effort they normally would. Sockeye
21 catches were better than chums and probably were adequate
22 in most areas. Other subsistence fishers, particularly in
23 the middle river area were hampered by high water
24 conditions at times. Weak runs and poor catch results
25 coupled with the high cost of gasoline resulted in some
26 fishers catching fewer chum and sockeye salmon. Overall,
27 the 1999 Kuskokwim River salmon runs were among the poorest
28 on record. The total returns of chum and coho salmon to
29 the Kuskokwim drainage were very weak and that was as
30 evidenced by the record low commercial salmon catches and
31 record low in the Bethel test fishery. The Aniak River
32 sonar count in Kougarok River weir chum salmon passage
33 were 28 percent and 54 percent below their respective
34 escapement objectives. The daily chum, coho and chinook
35 salmon passage at the cooperative escapement projects of
36 Kwethluk, George and Tatlawiksuk River weir projects were
37 generally low to average when compared to previous years
38 data and it's a short data base, just the recent few years.

39
40 Because of the extremely poor chum and coho salmon
41 run strengths, commercial fishing time was extremely
42 limited. There was only one six hour period during the
43 chum season and one six hour coho salmon period and those
44 were basically test openings, working with the fishermen
45 and the working group to make sure that the run was what it
46 looked like end of season, that it looked low and that when
47 we had those periods we could tell that, yes, they were
48 definitely low abundance of chum and coho salmon. The
49 resulting catches were only seven percent and five percent.
50 Seven percent for chum, five percent for coho of the recent

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1 10 year average so they were very -- extremely low harvest.
2 The disappointing aspect is that escapement of the parent
3 years for coho and chum indicated that we should have had
4 much better returns. And so it appears that either in
5 fresh water survival of what -- what we're really looking
6 at mostly is that it looks like it's climate, environmental
7 changes out in the ocean that are reducing productivity and
8 the return of salmon in not only the Kuskokwim but in other
9 areas of Western Alaska.

10
11 We also have a handout that is entitled -- it's
12 just a one page salmon escapement projects in the Kuskokwim
13 area. And that's just a summary of all the projects the
14 Department has and some are projects that are sistered with
15 Fish and Wildlife Service and then cooperative projects
16 such as Kwethluk River tower and the George River weir,
17 Tatlawiksuk River weir, Takotna River tower. And these
18 projects have really provided much needed information. In
19 the past we've had one escapement project on the Kougarok
20 River and that's not very good for indexing and tired
21 drainage like the Kuskokwim. So these projects are really
22 helpful and it's with cooperative efforts with like KNA
23 here in Aniak and a lot of local hires are on these
24 projects and they provide much needed information.

25
26 On the back of that page there is some additional
27 salmon escapement projects that could be established. And
28 there's definitely much more -- many more projects that
29 others would have -- from the public might have good
30 project ideas, too, but just a few of the projects would be
31 like the Telaquana Lake weir to enumerate sockeye salmon,
32 Tuluksak River weir to enumerate chinook, chum and coho
33 salmon, and Eek River weir to enumerate chinook, chum and
34 coho salmon.

35
36 I think one of the other things that isn't on this
37 list but thought about on the Yukon area, too, is more
38 fresh water fisheries monitoring of pike, white fish and
39 sheefish. It's kind of the ones that we ignore. We put
40 everything into salmon. But there's a lot of subsistence
41 harvest of these other fresh water fish and it's better to
42 collect information, monitoring harvest or sizes of the
43 fish and try to get some information on abundance before
44 there is a problem, and I think that that would be a good
45 place for some future work, too, in the Kuskokwim as well
46 as in the Yukon and other areas.

47
48 And if you have any questions we'll try and answer
49 them.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions from the
2 Council? Go ahead Ray.

3
4 MR. COLLINS: Yes. Why was the Kuskokwim
5 so different let's say from the Yukon? If it was just
6 something that happened to the ocean, why did it seem to
7 impact the Kuskokwim more than other rivers in western
8 Alaska or isn't that the case; that's the impression I get?

9
10 MR. BERGSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, Vince,
11 will be going through a summary for the Yukon but the chums
12 are very low there, too. The cohos, if anything, were --
13 it's a much smaller run and they weren't that strong. The
14 fall chum run was weak, too, so it's -- it seems like it's
15 the whole west coats on chums, primarily. And then cohos
16 were from, kind of the Nushagak, Bristol Bay on up were
17 weak, so Norton Sound, weak there, too. And that's where
18 we kind of look at that it's probably an ocean thing
19 because it is covering such a big area.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry.

22
23 MR. DEACON: On the escapement of Anvik
24 River, that 500,00, how long that number stands?

25
26 MR. BERGSTROM: Well, we'll be going over
27 the Anvik with the Yukon but that's -- how long is it going
28 to be in effect or how long has it been there?

29
30 MR. DEACON: 500,000 fish escapement. Do
31 you increase that to use as the more demand of fishermen?
32 It seems to me -- the reason I ask that question, too, you
33 know, a few years ago, you had a lot of fishing --
34 commercial fishing up at Anvik River and I kind of wonder
35 if that had an effect on the return of the fish, you know.
36 I was really wondering about that.

37
38 MR. BERGSTROM: Well, I'll just answer real
39 quickly since you ask now. But with the Anvik River, the
40 500,000 escapement goal, it was about 487, I believe,
41 487,000 up through about 1993 and then it was maybe 500,000
42 at that time, and it's basically based on a spawn or
43 recruit relationship and then we had to make some estimates
44 for what the proportion of harvest below the Anvik would be
45 -- the Anvik River fish, but it's a pretty solid escapement
46 goal. And then the escapement is through a sonar so it's a
47 pretty good count there. And when we had the commercial
48 openings there it's been since 1994 through 1997 that we've
49 had some commercial openings. But the parent year
50 escapements for this last year, 1999, were a million plus

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1 fish, there was plenty of escapement and there was plenty
2 of females and we should have seen a better return. We're
3 seeing a return of less than half a return per spawner.
4 It's just unbelievably low.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions from
7 the Board? Carl.

8

9 MR. MORGAN: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm glad
10 you're doing something about the Native fish, too, on the
11 Yukon. But we've got that problem over here on the
12 Kuskokwim side, if you were here yesterday you would have
13 heard Herman Morgan testify and address this Board about
14 the pike on Pike Lake and also another one that we use a
15 lot is the white fish in White Fish Lake. White Fish Lake
16 is becoming a city there, like a commercial opening with
17 boats. A lot of fishermen are over there catching white
18 fish. Not from the area, they're going some place, and I
19 think that should be brought in too. Because we do use the
20 white fish a lot and the pike. We use the pike a lot in
21 the winter time. And the traditional people that are here,
22 that live here, they use it and they say, only take what
23 you need. You know, you don't take a whole bunch and go
24 sell it. And that's the problem we're seeing, that I've
25 seen that people who have come to tell me about, especially
26 in White Fish Lake. Because I know the lower Kuskokwim
27 uses a lot of white fish. And I've heard from them saying
28 there's a lot of fishermen now.

29

30 Another thing I was going to ask you is have you
31 seen the commercial catch four or five years prior to 1999?
32 Was that a record, a big catch on the Kuskokwim?

33

34 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman, one comment
35 on white fish, on that one list there that was what we
36 would propose as being a use of funding if it becomes
37 available, would be to look more into white fish and
38 sheefish. It's the same on the Yukon and Kuskokwim, very
39 little information is collected on the stock status or each
40 structure or anything. And what we do have on the Yukon is
41 we do collect -- we have a fairly good database for the
42 last few years on just harvest. But I know on the
43 Kuskokwim there is a lot of effort and we should really
44 start watching it because it could become a concern where
45 we don't want some year where fishermen come in and go, we
46 can't catch any, you know, then it's late trying to do
47 something. So that's what we're suggesting is if funding
48 becomes available, is to try to collect more information on
49 that.

50

00150

1 As far as the parent years for chums, as you know,
2 they come back basically four and five year olds that --
3 well, we just have the five year averages, but I believe it
4 was in the Yukon 1995, '94, '96 were all pretty good
5 returns, as I recall on the Kuskokwim -- I don't -- it
6 wouldn't have been a record harvest but it was a pretty
7 high harvest in '95. The record harvest, I believe was
8 1988 or 1989 where it was like over a million chums in the
9 Kuskokwim.

10
11 MR. MORGAN: That was my point of my
12 question, there is a link. And it's not only the
13 biological reasons or the ocean getting warm, there is a
14 link if you have a record catch on the Kuskokwim on the
15 commercial end, it does have an effect four or five years
16 down the road.

17
18 MR. BERGSTROM: That's where, Mr. Chairman,
19 it's particular important to have good escapement
20 information because then you don't have to disrelate catch
21 with future harvests or what's happening but you have your
22 escapements to judge what your returns will be in the
23 future.

24
25 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, well, yes,
26 that's true we're doing it now. We're doing it with the
27 weirs and stuff. But before we were doing it with -- it
28 wasn't species apportionment, it was doing it by sonar,
29 you're counting whatever, suckers, pike, white fish, and
30 then you're saying, well, they've reached their escapement.
31 Sonar don't differentiate what kind of fish are passing the
32 beep, it just makes a beep and keeps on going.

33
34 MR. COLLINS: I'm also glad that you're
35 going to be looking at some of the other fish because I've
36 heard over the years in the upper Kuskokwim that things are
37 changing there, like white fish. There are lakes that had
38 white fish runs that no longer have them. Part of it is
39 because of changing of other patterns, like beaver blocking
40 them off, you know. So what I'm suggesting is it would be
41 good to go through some of the villages and gather data
42 from some of the elders there about where their fisheries
43 resources were in the past and maybe take a look at those
44 and see what's happening. Because if it's beaver that's
45 blocking off some of their spawning area like in white
46 fish, something could be done about that by liberalizing
47 the hunting season on beaver or something because trappers
48 aren't out there taking them now. So there's a connection
49 between fisheries and some of the other things that should
50 be considered.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ray. I think it's
2 about time that we do get some studies for white fish and
3 sheefish. Sooner or later it's going to be developed with
4 the current Legislature and feeling throughout the state,
5 anything that can be developed will be developed into some
6 kind of commercial venture sooner or later. So I think it
7 would behoove all of us to get some early studies in on
8 uses, like Ray said white fish, pike, sheefish use
9 patterns.

10
11 Vince.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think I
14 would like Ray and the other ones to keep remembering those
15 comments. I'm trying to look in our implementation plan
16 where that's going to come up so I apologize for not
17 pointing directly to that. And Ida may be able to help me
18 on that but essentially the Council will play a role
19 somewhat in prioritizing monitoring projects. So I think
20 on the record you're indicating that there is a need for
21 looking at these local fisheries because of the importance
22 to subsistence economies. And maybe Ida can fill in the
23 gaps for me. But this is exactly, I think, where you want
24 to be going in the next year or so.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff
29 Committee member. It's correct, during the training
30 session on the data gathering and implementation portion
31 you'll be given information about what's currently being
32 done and what are the plans for future studies and it would
33 be a good time for this Council and all councils to begin
34 to say exactly the same things that you're saying now.
35 These are the interests, these are the concerns, this is
36 the role of traditional knowledge in the scientific data
37 gathering process. And your comments are very apropos to
38 that discussion.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Jack.

41
42 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering if the
43 Department is tracking the sport fishing guide industry as
44 to the increases in the mortalities that they induce on
45 these fresh water fish in this area here?

46
47 MR. BERGSTROM: I don't have any
48 information myself, Mr. Chairman, but perhaps John Burr
49 would cover that later with the sport fish report.

50

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1 MR. STICKMAN: You said you were, excuse me
2 if I'm wrong but you said you were going to be fair with
3 the commercial openings as far as -- you know, because in
4 Nulato and Kaltag and I think as far down as Grayling there
5 has been no commercial openings for the last couple years
6 but there have been below and above, but nothing right
7 there in the middle.

8
9 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chairman, maybe we're
10 ready to move into the Yukon then but we really haven't
11 really talked about the Yukon River yet and Vince
12 Golembeski will cover that. It's a little more longer
13 summary, we have more information. We're more intimately
14 involved with the Yukon and then it's a fair sized bigger
15 area, too, so maybe we're ready to move to that.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that fine with the Board?
18 Yes, let's get into the Yukon because that's where a lot of
19 our questions are being addressed.

20
21 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Mr. Chairman and members
22 of the Council, my name is Vincent Golembeski, and I'm the
23 assistant area management biologist for the Yukon area for
24 chinook and summer chum salmon. Thanks for having me here
25 again.

26
27 The last time I was before you there was a question
28 that took me by surprise, someone wanted to know on the
29 committee what the legal size of halibut was for the
30 commercial fishery and I didn't know at that time, but the
31 minimum size is 32 inches for halibut in a commercial
32 fishery from mouth to tail, and it's 24 inch minimum size
33 with the head off. And with sport fish there's no size
34 limit, which I knew that, and there's a two halibut per day
35 in the sport fishery in the Yukon area, in the A-YK area.
36 All right, so I just wanted to answer that question because
37 I didn't know it the last time I was here so I looked it
38 up.

39
40 One of the handouts that we have for you, well, we
41 put a few of them out, there's about six total. Two for
42 the Kuskokwim and then there's four for the Yukon area.
43 There's a preliminary season summary for the summer season.
44 There's the 1999 fall chum salmon management overview.
45 There's a list of projects in the Yukon River drainage.
46 And then there's also an overview for program improvements
47 for the Yukon area fisheries. And I'll be giving you a
48 brief summary on those and will be willing to answer your
49 questions there as they come up.

50

00153

1 The 1999 Yukon River chinook and summer chum salmon
2 runs continue to exhibit a decline in productivity observed
3 in recent years. Five and six year old chinook salmon
4 abundance was much less than would be expected based on
5 parent year escapements. Summer chum salmon abundance has
6 been below average to poor since 1997, although parent year
7 escapements were very good from 1994 through 1996.
8 Subsistence fishermen reported meeting their needs
9 throughout most of the Yukon area. Information was
10 obtained in-season through Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's
11 Association conference calls and numerous personal
12 contacts. Coastal communities such as Hooper Bay and
13 Scammon Bay reported good salmon catches which was not the
14 case in 1998. Subsistence catches from the Koyukuk River
15 drainage indicated subsistence needs were met except for
16 the upper most reaches near Bettles. One fisherman from
17 Bettles reported that high water driftwood during the
18 chinook salmon run resulted in little or no subsistence
19 harvest in that area.

20
21 On the commercial fishery we'll provide a summary
22 of the commercial fishery because in many communities
23 subsistence and commercial fishing are very entwined as
24 part of their rural lifestyle. The total estimated
25 commercial harvest including the estimated harvest sold was
26 69,000 chinook salmon and 29,000 summer chum salmon. The
27 1999 chinook salmon harvest was the third lowest commercial
28 harvest since statehood and 31 percent below the recent 10
29 year average harvest of 101,000 chinook salmon. The
30 commercial harvest of chinook salmon was near the low end
31 of the guideline for all districts and subdistricts. The
32 commercial fishery was managed conservatively by general
33 (indiscernible) and the length of fishing period duration
34 from normal.

35
36 The summer chum salmon harvest was the second
37 lowest since 1968 and 94 percent below the recent 10 year
38 average of 533,000 fish. The summer chum salmon harvest
39 was taken entirely incidental to fishing directed at
40 chinook salmon. So there was no directed fishery targeting
41 summer chum salmon on the Yukon River.

42
43 For in-season management, the 1999 preseason
44 outlook was for a weak to below average chinook salmon run
45 and a below average summer chum salmon run based on reduced
46 productivity and poor returns observed in 1998. The
47 commercial harvest in the Alaska portion of the drainage
48 was anticipated to between 25,000 and 75,000 chinook salmon
49 and 25,000 to 300,000 summer chum salmon.

50

00154

1 Accumulative test fishing CPUE was 24.42 compared
2 to the average of 25.22 for the years 1989 to 1998. Pilot
3 Station sonar cumulative passage preliminary estimate of
4 211,000 chinook salmon was well above the passage estimate
5 of 122,000 fish in 1998 but near the passage estimates of
6 240,000 in 1995 and 224,000 in 1997. Spawning escapements
7 were very good in 1995 and 1997. Although the preliminary
8 passage range of 140,000 to 200,000 chinook salmon
9 identified preseason was exceeded, harvest and escapement
10 data to indicate below average abundance above Pilot
11 Station. Further analysis of run assessments will be done
12 this winter.

13
14 Age composition sampling showed that the chinook
15 salmon run was dominated by six year olds to a higher
16 extent than normal. The percentage of five year chinook
17 salmon was much lower than average and combined with the
18 lower than average abundance causes concern regarding a
19 poor return outlook for the year 2000.

20
21 The summer chum salmon run was assessed as being
22 poor in abundance. The Pilot Station sonar cumulative
23 passage estimate was 945,000 summer chum salmon. An
24 estimated 1,000,000 summer chum salmon are needed for
25 spawning escapements. No directed summer chum commercial
26 harvest was possible this year. Although the 1999 sonar
27 passage estimate was greater than the 1998 estimate of
28 831,000, most escapement monitoring projects indicated
29 lower numbers in 1999 than in 1998. It'll take several
30 more seasons to evaluate the results of the Pilot Station
31 sonar project to determine how sonar passage estimates
32 relate to subsequent harvest escapements on the spawning
33 grounds.

34
35 The subdistrict 4(A) in the Anvik River management
36 area were not open to commercial fishing for the second
37 consecutive year in 1999 because of poor runs of summer
38 chum salmon. Villages in subdistrict 4(A) were greatly
39 impacted. The recent 10 year average harvest for
40 subdistrict 4(A) in the Anvik River management area was
41 126,000 pounds of summer chum salmon roe and the value from
42 1991 through 1998 averaged \$400,000.

43
44 On our escapements of -- chinook salmon escapements
45 in 1999 ranged from 12 percent to 56 percent below the
46 recent five year average throughout the drainage with
47 minimum escapement goals achieved in only three surveyed
48 tributaries. Preliminary results of the Department of
49 Fisheries and Oceans mark and recapture tagging project at
50 the U.S./Canada border indicated a total spawning

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1 escapement for the Canadian portion of the upper Yukon
2 River drainage of approximately 12,500 chinook salmon.
3 This is 55 percent below the rebuilding step goal of 28,000
4 chinook salmon and very disappointing based on in-season
5 run assessment. Further review of this tagging project and
6 other run size indicators will be done this winter.

7
8 The preliminary post season analysis of summer chum
9 salmon, commercial harvest and escapement data indicate
10 that the summer chum salmon run was very poor in abundance.
11 No escapements in monitored tributaries met minimum goals
12 or were considered adequate. Results ranged from 40
13 percent to 89 percent below the recent five year average
14 except for the Chena River.

15
16 In-season run assessment is very important for
17 managing summer chum salmon. Four year old fish could come
18 back strong next year based on parent year escapements in
19 1996 or continued for productivity could result in a poor
20 run.

21
22 That concludes my king salmon and summer chum
23 salmon summary. If there's any questions relating to that
24 I can try to answer now and then I'll continue with the
25 fall season and projects.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

28
29 MR. JONES: Yeah, on your data, do you have
30 your household reports that you send the calendars out
31 every summer; do you have that on that?

32
33 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Not for the 1999 season.
34 We're just collecting that and the crew is just fishing up
35 doing their subsistence surveys now so we haven't received
36 all our calendars yet for the 1999 season yet.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?

39
40 MR. STICKMAN: Yes. I'd like to know again
41 why there's no -- it's in 4(A) but there's openings in 1,
42 2, and 3 and then you get up to 4(B) and 4(C) and there's
43 openings there but nothing on the middle Yukon?

44
45 MR. GOLEMBESKI: The reason there were
46 openings on those is because those fisheries were targeting
47 king salmon, the chinook salmon, because there was an
48 abundance -- in-season we felt there was an abundance,
49 above what was needed for escapements and subsistence, so
50 we opened those up for directed king salmon fishery.

00156

1 Whereas in subdistrict 4(A), which starts, basically at the
2 village of Anvik and goes up through Koyukuk, there isn't a
3 commercial fishery for king salmon. It's mainly a fishery
4 directed at summer chum salmon and summer chum salmon roe.
5 So since there was not an abundance of summer chum salmon
6 we didn't open directed fisheries for that.

7
8 MR. STICKMAN: Why isn't there a fishery
9 for king salmon in the middle Yukon?

10
11 MR. GOLEMBESKI: People really haven't
12 traditionally fished for king salmon in the middle Yukon in
13 the past. There is basically -- the middle Yukon also
14 includes the Galena and Ruby area and there has been
15 commercial fisheries for king salmon in that area.
16 Basically the guideline harvest range is fairly low.

17
18 MR. STICKMAN: I think that's wrong. I
19 think we fish for king salmon just as much as anybody else.

20
21 MR. GOLEMBESKI: And basically the gear
22 type that people use predominately in the middle Yukon is
23 fish wheels and fish wheels don't traditionally catch many
24 kind salmon. And the king salmon that they do catch are
25 generally smaller and jacks, they have a very limited
26 monetary value. In some cases, we're talking where king
27 salmon is going for a dollar or \$2 a pound and the jacks
28 are worth less than 50 cents.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if it would
33 help, I don't know if it will or not. You do have in your
34 material that he handed out, maps for the area. I do have
35 extra copies for those that may not know the different
36 fishing districts on the two drainages. And if need be, I
37 have overheads of the same drainages. I don't think you're
38 going there but I'm preparing you for future meetings that
39 the full council is going to have to understand these
40 fishing districts in the Kuskokwim as well as the Yukon and
41 vice versa so there are maps and there are handouts. I do
42 have additional copies if you'd like those because I
43 personally don't know where 4(A) is versus 4(B) without
44 looking at a map.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Vince.

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: And so if you need those maps
49 I can pass them out, if you need the overheads we can do
50 that.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you feel a need for this
2 right now? I don't see a real need yet but I do want them
3 available at all our future meetings.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.
6

7 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Basically your breakdown
8 is for 4(A), is that area from Anvik up to Koyukuk, 4(B)
9 and (C) include the villages of Ruby and Galena and the
10 cutoff point is the tip of Collin Point just past
11 Benjamin's area over at Bishop Rock.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: What I did is just borrow
14 maps from Board of Fisheries and just -- I've been carrying
15 them around for a couple years here in anticipation that
16 they're going to be needed. So I just wanted to get you
17 guys -- I think we're going to go to that type of
18 terminology by districts so we're going to have to sort
19 this out. So anyways, it's fine if you're working
20 everything out.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: We have a question from
23 David James, Eastern Interior.
24

25 MR. JAMES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just
26 for information purpose here, the comments that my
27 counterpart, Micky Stickman made was a few years ago our
28 people in the Yukon Flats got cut off from subsistence
29 fishing. It was a very big concern and a big uproar for
30 our people, what's going on? We had lower Yukon and the
31 middle and -- and up by Rampart and Tanana, everybody had
32 their share of fish and when the fish came up into that
33 area, oops, the allocation and numbers, there wasn't enough
34 so they shut us down. I think this is -- we really need to
35 -- maybe when we go into our joint meeting in Anchorage or
36 in the future there, we need to streamline what's going on
37 with these other organizations that have an input into
38 closing our season. There's other organizations out there
39 that has a really strong input and we really need to have a
40 good workshop and find out how we're going to -- if we're
41 going to take these regulatory on fishing season over that
42 we're -- it's going to take more than one meeting, it's
43 going to take a series of workshops and meetings together
44 and that was one of the reasons why the Eastern Board there
45 asked for a joint meeting with the Western and the lower
46 Yukon, to find out and to also identify organizations
47 that's making decisions for our people there so we can be
48 more educated and updated. So we can -- so we know where
49 these decisions are coming from because this is -- this is
50 a big concern here, the middle Yukon there been cutoff

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1 there, and we have the same issue in upper Yukon.

2

3 So thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, David James. Is
6 there any more questions for commercial fisheries? Vince,
7 do you have more?

8

9 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Yes, sir, I have the fall
10 season summary.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

13

14 MR. GOLEMBESKI: The 1999 fall chum salmon
15 management overview is a handout. The 1999 Yukon fall chum
16 salmon run was managed by following guidelines provided by
17 the Alaska Board of Fisheries called the Yukon River
18 drainage fall chum salmon management plan. The management
19 plan provides for escapement needs and establishes a
20 subsistence priority using prior -- used prior to
21 considering commercial fishing activities.

22

23 The management plan stipulates that directed fall
24 chum salmon commercial fisheries be allowed only when a run
25 size projection is greater than 675,000 fall chum salmon.
26 Additionally only the harvestable surplus above 625,000
27 fall chum salmon may be targeted in the Alaska commercial
28 fisheries. Consequently the 1999 Yukon River preseason
29 projection was presented as a range from 550,000 to 1.2
30 million fall chum salmon. In 1999 the fall chum salmon
31 return had an unusually strong component early in the
32 season. The first formal in-season projection used to
33 determine if commercial activities would be justified was
34 not made until late July. Based on average run timing
35 information it appeared that the 1999 fall chum salmon
36 return would be large enough, which means more than 675,000
37 fall chum salmon to support commercial activities.
38 Consequently the 1999 fall season, commercial salmon season
39 was opened. Then when the third pulse of fall chum salmon
40 entered the river on August 11th, this pulse proved to be
41 disappointing, was not large enough to maintain the end of
42 the season run size projection, and that level needed to
43 continue commercial fishing season. The 1999 fall chum
44 salmon run was estimated to be between 535,000 and 634,000
45 fall chum salmon.

46

47 So to summarize, the strong early component
48 indicated there was a harvestable surplus but then as time
49 went on and more fish came into the river, the run
50 projection dropped off in-season and commercial fishing

00159

1 ended. And again, the fall season run was estimated to be
2 between 535,000 and 634,000.

3
4 The majority of the upper Yukon area projects to-
5 date indicate a below average return of fall chum salmon
6 which is lower than expected. There are some concerns that
7 the abundance of fall chum salmon as determined by lower
8 Yukon area projects is not being confirmed by the upper
9 Yukon area projects. The poor return of fall chum salmon
10 to the Tanana River has prompted closure of the personal
11 use fishery within the Fairbanks area. And the coho salmon
12 return appears to be near average in abundance.

13
14 A total of 20,400 fall chum salmon and 1,600 coho
15 salmon were sold in the Yukon area, Districts 1 and 2, and
16 subdistricts 4(B) and 4(C). An estimated 257 permit
17 holders participated in the Yukon area fishery in 1999.
18 The average income per permit holder was approximately
19 \$156.

20
21 And that concludes my summary for the fall season.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions? Benedict.

24
25 MR. JONES: Yeah, on your fall chum, for
26 subsistence use, that's in the middle Yukon area, that's
27 really targeted, but on your return to escapement plan, I
28 don't think it was met on the -- as far as I can see that
29 when I was fishing in August, there was only about two days
30 of heavy pulse and then it dropped off down to zero and
31 then it comes up to -- up and down, but we didn't meet our
32 goal for subsistence use.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other questions or
35 comments for comm fisheries, commercial fisheries? Jack.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: What was that commercial
38 catch again for chum?

39
40 MR. GOLEMBESKI: 20,400 fall chum salmon
41 and 1,600 coho.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

44
45 MR. BERGSTROM: Mr. Chair, I wanted to kind
46 of comment what Benedict said there, we saw it in the
47 chinook run, summer chum and the fall chum run this year,
48 what we're really going to be evaluating this winter,
49 what's going on with the sonar passage estimates because in
50 all three it seemed like the estimate was actually higher

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1 than what we were seeing in catches and escapement up river
2 so it's a real concern. It appeared for chinook salmon
3 that things were working pretty well in '95, '97 and '98
4 that we could start really using that to manage the run in
5 estimating abundances in the sonar but it appears that, you
6 know, something's going on. So we really have to evaluate
7 it prior to this next season how we're going to use it.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I think it has to do
10 with what Carl said, sonar cannot detect what is white
11 fish, sheefish or, you know, this and that, cannot detect
12 and identify everything. Micky.

13
14 MR. STICKMAN: Yes. At the meeting last
15 week up in Huslia, the middle Yukon and the Koyukuk River,
16 they had a couple proposals out there. One was for a
17 maximum mesh size of sections and another one was asking
18 for restrictions on the hatcheries. That was just for the
19 Council's information. We might want to do something our
20 ourselves.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Under the State advisory
23 committee?

24
25 MR. STICKMAN: Well, under the Federal.
26 Because under the State the middle Yukon and the Koyukuk
27 River already has two proposals out.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Did you have anything
30 to add on that, on mesh size, Benedict?

31
32 MR. JONES: On the restriction on the
33 hatchery fish, they're more aggressive for food out in the
34 sea when they're released. They're stronger than the wild
35 stock. So the commercial fishermen emphasized that they do
36 away with the hatchery fish.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Was that in the form of a
39 proposal?

40
41 MR. JONES: Yes, that was.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. As long as it's
44 being addressed, that's what I want to make clear. Gerald,
45 Eastern Interior.

46
47 MR. NICHOLIA: Yes, I've been on the
48 Tanana/Rampart/ Manley, pretty involved with the YRDFA, and
49 what we've been finding out that the ocean has been
50 affecting -- the ocean climate has been affecting the

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1 natural stock more than the hatchery stock. The hatchery
2 stock has -- is out there in a greater number than the
3 natural stock. They compete for the same food so the
4 natural stock comes back weaker and they lose more
5 nutrients out there trying to get food and stuff so they
6 come back with all these stuff that -- they come back
7 weaker then and they get sick, and then that's where all
8 the diseases and stuff come from, puss pockets. So what
9 I'm really saying is that the hatchery fish is out
10 competing the natural stock, and I wonder if you guys take
11 that into account.

12
13 And another thing I want you guys to -- to stress
14 to you guys is it looks like you guys don't incorporate
15 traditional knowledge from the local people. Like around
16 Tanana, we really try to put a lot of food away and stuff
17 for the winter, you know. Most of our people up there,
18 they never got their -- hardly ever met their needs. And
19 we see a lot of things that's going around down river that
20 really never happens up river around the Tanana area, you
21 know.

22
23 There's a lot of other things I want to say but I'm
24 going to save that for the Tanana/Rampart/Manley meeting,
25 you guys will probably here from us then.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions,
28 comments on commercial fisheries summary?

29
30 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Mr. Chairman, one of the
31 other handouts we have is projects we conduct on the Alaska
32 portion of the Yukon River. We have a handout of the
33 current Yukon area project in Alaska conducted by Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
35 Service. There are also cooperative projects in the local
36 groups. Much of the funding is through the BIA, which
37 contributes money to the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
38 and projects are funded that way.

39
40 For example, we have the Nulato tower project that
41 Fish and Game runs with the Nulato Tribal Council. The
42 Kaltag tower which is run by the city of Kaltag. And then
43 Clear and Hinshaw Creek projects that are run by Tanana
44 Chief's Conference. So there's a whole list of projects
45 that are being conducted on the Yukon area, on the Yukon
46 River and its tributaries. And that's this sheet here.

47
48 Also attached to this summary is the Western salmon
49 disaster studies in the Yukon-Kuskokwim areas. Some
50 projects beginning in the year 2000 include the Yukon River

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1 chinook radio telemetry project. This is a new large scale
2 radio telemetry study with capture and release of chinook
3 salmon from gillnets and potentially other gear in the
4 vicinity of Russian Mission. Radio-tagged chinook would be
5 tracked by stations equipped with the satellite uplinks
6 deployed throughout the Yukon River drainage. However,
7 funding for more tracking stations would be useful.

8
9 Another project we're going to be doing is
10 converting the Nulato tower to a weir project. And then
11 there's the Tanana River/Toklat River fall chum salmon
12 escapement assessment. In the Kuskokwim River we have the
13 Kuskokwim River coho salmon mark and recapture project.
14 The Kuskokwim River sonar project. And then the Kuskokwim
15 River tributary escapement assessments. And these include
16 extension of escapement projects on the Kwethluk, George,
17 Tatlawiksuk, Kougarak and Takotna Rivers to monitor coho
18 salmon escapements for the 1999 through year 2002 field
19 seasons. So these are some of the projects that will start
20 to be implemented.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I'm sure that
23 we'll be requesting all that information that you gather
24 through these projects. But at this time I'm not quite
25 prepared to see what we can do with them. Do we have any
26 questions from the Council members?

27
28 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Just one last thing, Mr.
29 Chairman, we also have a Yukon area fisheries program
30 improvement sheet that we have out there. It's kind of
31 like a wish list. Someone was asking me about one last
32 night and I said, yes, we always have one available in case
33 funding is available from any organization in the form of
34 grants or things like that. So we always have one in the
35 works, we're always updating them as we see the need for
36 them in the Yukon and Kuskokwim and other parts of the
37 state.

38
39 This is a list of potential projects in the Yukon
40 area.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Short? Is it a short list?

43
44 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Yeah, it's a short list.
45 The purpose of this project listing is to identify
46 potential programs for improved fisheries stock assessment
47 and management in the Yukon area. Setting priorities is
48 challenging given that program needs are many diverse.
49 It's understood that different funding sources may have
50 different objectives and guidelines, and that there are

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1 other worthwhile projects that others may suggest. For
2 example, we have the need for additional chinook and summer
3 chum salmon escapement projects, such as locations could be
4 on the Innoko River drainage and also Kijik River. Gerald
5 was suggesting earlier, well, we'd like to see a project
6 for the ikthiahopfori fungus (ph) which has been noted over
7 the last several years especially in the 1999/98 season.
8 We're looking to possibly in the future upgrade the Yukon
9 River sonar to a split beam system, so we need to do some
10 testing and replacement. And then also Yukon River
11 Cooperative Management teleconferences for in-season
12 management, sharing of data from upper Yukon projects and
13 communities with the lower Yukon. And then what we've
14 already keyed in earlier, was freshwater species
15 subsistence fisheries monitoring, numbers, locations,
16 things like that, and just get a database going which is
17 something that we don't have at this time for a really in-
18 depth analysis.

19
20 That pretty much concludes my information. I'm
21 still willing to answer any questions that I can.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, thank you. Are there
24 any questions? If not, thank you for your time. I know
25 that we will appreciate all your information and we'll be
26 asking for more at our winter meeting.

27
28 MR. GOLEMBESKI: All right, thank you Mr.
29 Chairman and members of the Council.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I don't see
32 Randy Rogers here yet at this time so while we're on
33 fisheries, I'd like to get into the sport fisheries. Do we
34 have anyone on that?

35
36 MR. BURR: I'll be doing that, it will be
37 just a second.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

40
41 MR. BURR: I'm John Burr, with Alaska Fish
42 and Game Sport Fish Division. I'll try to keep this brief
43 and not overestimate your interest in what I might have to
44 say. A couple of comments I wanted to make first off have
45 to do with how Sport Fish Division fits into the other
46 fisheries divisions in management of fisheries throughout
47 the area.

48
49 Under State regulations all fish that are caught
50 with a rod and reel in the open water period come under the

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1 regulations that are listed as sport fishery regulations.
2 Under the Federal system rod and reel is considered a legal
3 method and means for collecting subsistence fish but that's
4 not the case under State regulations at the current time.
5 During the ice covered season in many places, the State
6 regulations allow for taking fish with by hooking but
7 that's only during the winter time.

8
9 As Dan pointed out earlier, the State also has a
10 subsistence priority. All other uses of fish resources
11 have an equal secondary priority. The sport commercial
12 personal use fisheries all have a secondary level.

13
14 The Sport Fish Division is able to monitor in a
15 general way, the fisheries that occur throughout the state
16 with a state wide harvest survey, and then we use on-site
17 angler surveys and other research projects to investigate
18 selected fisheries that we have reason to think we have
19 something to be concerned about.

20
21 I want to just describe the three handouts that I
22 just gave you. There should be -- the first one is the
23 Yukon River sport fishery, the second one is the upper
24 Kuskokwim River sport fishery and then there is a separate
25 sheet that's double-sided that has harvest catch and effort
26 for the entire Kuskokwim drainage listed. There's more
27 copies of those back by the speaker and then there's one
28 more full set up here on the table if anybody doesn't get a
29 copy that wants one, see me and I'll do my best to get you
30 one.

31
32 I'm going to talk briefly about the Yukon River
33 sport fisheries first. Effort and harvest in the Yukon
34 drainage as a whole continue to be pretty limited
35 particularly when they're compared either subsistence or
36 commercial fisheries and also in comparison to the size of
37 the drainage. There are certainly increases in effort and
38 harvest in certain areas and these are of concern to local
39 communities and to the Department. But in general, if you
40 look at these tables you'll see that the total effort for
41 the last five years has been about 15,000 man days or
42 angler days per year and then the total harvest is only
43 about 8,000 total, those are the fish that are taken. You
44 also see, as you look at this, that salmon in the Yukon
45 River make up a very small portion of the total harvest or
46 catch in the sport fishery, only -- about 10 percent -- a
47 little bit less than 10 percent. Most of the harvest is
48 made up of fresh water fish, in particular, the grayling
49 and pike. Between those two species they make up about 80
50 percent of the additional harvest and catch. In the last

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1 five years they've taken about 4,000 grayling, on average,
2 and about 2,000 pike. Now, pike are also a species that
3 people like to catch and release a lot and we've had an
4 additional about 13,000 northern pike that have been caught
5 and released, so the total catching harvest of about 15,000
6 on average during the last 5 years. And that number has
7 not changed a lot recently. The Yukon River sport
8 fisheries or rod and reel fisheries are pretty stable.

9
10 And one other thing I wanted to add about rod and
11 reel fisheries, is that, there's a fairly wide range of how
12 people approach what gets called sport fisheries. Some
13 people are truly just recreational fisheries, they're out
14 there just catching and releasing everything they catch and
15 then there's other people that use the fishing pole as the
16 most efficient way to get the fish that they want to eat,
17 and all of those come under the heading of sport fisheries
18 under State management regime.

19
20 That's all I was going to say, first off, about the
21 Yukon. I guess I'd like to talk about the Kuskokwim next
22 and then open it up to any questions you might have.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that sounds good.

25
26 MR. BURR: The Kuskokwim fisheries are,
27 again, monitored in the same way that the Yukon fisheries
28 are. However, there has been more increase in use in the
29 Kuskokwim side than we've seen in the Yukon side. This
30 last year the Department did issue two emergency orders
31 that restricted the use of salmon stock by sport fishermen.
32 First was a chum salmon emergency order which closed the
33 fishery in the middle of July and then in, I believe it was
34 the 20th of August we restricted the harvest of coho salmon
35 down to one fish per day from five.

36
37 Again, like I said, there's been an increase in
38 angler effort in the sport fisheries in this drainage. And
39 what I've done on this one, if you look at the Table 1 and
40 Table 2, Table 1 represents the fisheries upstream of the
41 Aniak River and it shows that the Holitna River is really
42 the primary sport where people sport fish in the upper
43 portion of the Kuskokwim River. And then Table 2 shows the
44 Kuskokwim River, Aniak River and downstream and, again, you
45 see the same thing, that there's one river that really
46 supports most of the sport fishing and that's the Aniak
47 River. There's also some -- a significant amount of
48 fishing that occurs in the Bethel area in some of those
49 streams but as you'll see the Aniak River is supporting
50 about half of the effort and a disproportionate portion of

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1 the harvest of these freshwater fish. Yesterday there was
2 a comment about a marked increase in the use of pike in the
3 Aniak River and it clearly shows up in the information from
4 1998. We don't have 1998 and '99's data yet, we won't have
5 that until about this time next year. But the information
6 we're getting from local people appears to be absolutely
7 right on and we are planning to have a project on the Aniak
8 River this upcoming season that's going to look at the
9 sport fishery and also try to assess the status of the
10 resident species primarily northern pike, dolly varden and
11 rainbow trout in the Aniak River. And similarly, we'll
12 have a project along those lines going on at the Holitna
13 River again this upcoming season. We had one in 1997 on
14 the Holitna River. Because that fishery has also changed
15 quite a bit here in the last few years.

16
17 The other thing I wanted to say about the Kuskokwim
18 River, in 1995 or winter of '97, I guess it was, there was
19 a major revamping of the sport fish regulations in the
20 Kuskokwim River, and that's what's shown on Table 3, it
21 shows the changes from 1997 to 1998. And in general what
22 happened is we put a spawning season closure on the king
23 salmon and then reduced the allowable harvest of all
24 resident species in all the various portions of the
25 drainage -- all the tributaries down stream of the Holitna
26 River and including the Holitna River.

27
28 And if anybody has any questions about those I'll
29 be glad to try to answer them.

30
31 As far as other things that I wanted to tell you
32 about, there are two agenda change requests that deal with
33 the Aniak River sport fishery that are going to be in front
34 of the Board of Fisheries this year. As you're probably
35 aware, the Board of Fish looks at the various parts of the
36 state on a three year cycle, and they were not scheduled to
37 look at the Yukon or Kuskokwim or the Arctic area fisheries
38 at all this year but because of concern on the Aniak River
39 these two items were brought up. Mr. Herman Morgan
40 mentioned those yesterday.

41
42 The first one has to do with closing salmon
43 fisheries the 25th of July. The notion there is to protect
44 the fish once they're up on the spawning grounds. It's
45 going to have the effect of completely cutting off the coho
46 fishery probably if it's adopted. The other one has to do
47 with restricting the harvest of resident species in the
48 Aniak River during the summer time, June, July and August.
49 Basically it will provide for harvest resident species only
50 after the all the guided fishermen have gone home.

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1 I believe that's all I had. Let's see there was a
2 question about sport fish guiding and mortality, catch and
3 release fish. We've done a couple of things recently along
4 those lines. We did a study on the Nowitna River three
5 years ago to look at handling mortality of northern pike
6 and kind -- trying to demonstrate that if you treat the
7 fish in more gently then you would expect them to live
8 longer and sure enough that's the case. And on the Kobuk
9 River, they've put together some information brochures
10 along with the Park Service and are trying to educate the
11 anglers up there, particularly for sheefish, they're a
12 fairly fragile fish as far as catch and release fishing
13 goes, and there's been some really terrible catch and
14 release practices on that fishery in particular. But the
15 Kobuk is not unique in some of the abuses that we have
16 noticed. And we're trying to -- we're launching an
17 increasing effort to educate anglers on proper hook and
18 release techniques. Some fish, like northern pike, are
19 much, much more able to put up with that sort of practice
20 than other fish such as sheefish, they're kind of the
21 opposite ends of the spectrum.

22
23 And I'll quite talking and try to answer your
24 questions.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. How far back did
27 your survey go as far as harvest, three or four years?

28
29 MR. BURR: No, actually if you look at the
30 single sheet, the one from the Kuskokwim, we started doing
31 this state wide harvest survey in 1977, and it's been done
32 annually since that time. And I don't have there the
33 Yukon, the same information but it's available.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: But then the harvest has
36 been about the same, pretty stable?

37
38 MR. BURR: Yeah, actually what happened in
39 the Yukon is during the mid-'80s it increased quite a bit
40 for some reason and then leveled off and actually has
41 declined in the last 10 years, in general. Again, that's
42 the broad-brush of the whole Yukon drainage. There's some
43 places, for example, the Koyukuk River, the Koyukuk River
44 drainage, the level of harvest of grayling has increased
45 recently and of northern pike. And part of that's coming
46 off the Haul Road, but not all of it, there's -- I'm unsure
47 where the rest of that grayling harvest is coming from. I
48 have my suspicions that it has to do with summer time float
49 trips that are provided out in Bettles but I haven't been
50 able to nail that one down yet. But again, it's still a

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1 really pretty modest harvest of about 4,000 grayling per
2 year from the entire Yukon drainage. So it's of concern
3 because it's changing but at this point we're not
4 anticipating any kinds of conservation problems.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: A few years ago there was a
7 proposal from the lower Kuskokwim to -- I don't know if it
8 reached the Board of Fisheries or not, but they wanted to
9 count rod and reel activities as a subsistence activity.
10 What's the status of that proposal or where did it go?

11
12 MR. BURR: That was a proposal that was put
13 forth by AVCP in the Bethel area and it included --
14 essentially, that particular proposal just included the
15 AVCP area but the Department looked at it as a state wide
16 proposal and that is something that they've been collecting
17 information on this last two years and I believe the Board
18 of Fish is planning to consider it during this winter's
19 meeting. Whether they will act on it this year or wait
20 until the AY-K meeting next year is unclear to me. I
21 suspect that they will wait until the AY-K meeting next
22 year and not take it out of sequence. One other piece of
23 information, because of the extension of the Federal
24 government into subsistence management, in much of the AVCP
25 area where the proposal came from it's kind of a moot point
26 because almost all of that water is considered Federal
27 public land for the purpose of providing the subsistence
28 priority. And the Federal regulations provide for using a
29 rod and reel for subsistence, you know, so it's kind of
30 like closing the barn door after the horse has gotten out
31 in that regard. But it's something that the Board of Fish
32 is planning to address state wide.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Polly, just a quick one.

35
36 MS. WHEELER: Just to fill in for that, Mr.
37 Chair, too, is there's a Board of Fish work session coming
38 up at the end of this month, it overlaps as the Board of
39 Game meeting is what, October 27th through the 30th, and
40 they're going to be looking at the rod and reel issue.
41 Sport Fish has done a contingent use study on the -- for
42 Bethel based anglers and then out of state anglers to see
43 if their behavior would change if rod and reel was made a
44 legal subsistence gear. The Subsistence Division is going
45 to be presenting a report on use of rod and reel by -- or
46 hook and line, whatever you want to call it, by subsistence
47 users at the work session. And so we'll get further
48 direction at the work session from where we're going to go
49 with that.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. I would really
2 like to keep -- have you keep us informed on this because I
3 see a lot more people going after sheefish with rod and
4 reel around our area than we've ever had, especially for
5 subsistence. Does the Council have any questions?

6
7 MR. STICKMAN: I do.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky.

10
11 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, in the Kaiyuh, it's
12 off the Yukon River right below Nulato, there has been a
13 great increase in sport fishing there. And it seems like a
14 lot of the people that -- they're not from around Nulato,
15 the guides are from Galena and from Manley and from
16 Unalakleet. And what they've been doing is they've been
17 trespassing on Native allotments.

18
19 MR. BURR: Yeah, I understand -- Mr.
20 Chairman, I understand that there has been an increasing in
21 the use of Kaiyuh Flats by anglers from the Galena area and
22 then also from some of the other guided operations off the
23 Anvik and Unalakleet and probably from Aniak as well.
24 Again, the trespass issue is something that I am unprepared
25 to speak to. I do know that there's an increase in use of
26 the area, both by guided and unguided fishermen. There's
27 not -- there's certainly not a conservation concern at this
28 point. There's -- we did a study on the northern pike
29 population of the Kaiyuh Flats about four years ago using
30 radio telemetry to find where they were overwintering and
31 what summer areas were important, and there's a very --
32 very large population of big fish in that area. Lots -- at
33 that time there were lots of white fish around for forage,
34 and we have not seen in either our state wide harvest
35 survey or from our on-site projects, sufficiently large
36 increase to be concerned about conservation of those stocks
37 and -- but the trespass issue, that's something that the
38 refuge is probably better able to deal with.

39
40 And some other villages have had similar problems
41 with trespass on either corporation lands or allotments,
42 and they've kind of taken to patrolling those lands upon
43 themselves. Steven's Village is an example where they've
44 gotten quite active in ensuring that there's no trespass
45 occurring on their lands there at the Dall River. It's not
46 something that we are able to address, is the trespass
47 issue on private lands.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

50

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1 MR. COLLINS: On grayling on rainbow trout,
2 I notice there's rather restricted limits on those, rod and
3 reel is now sport fishing. How can you legally take those
4 fish for subsistence, is it just with a net then?

5
6 MR. BURR: Well, yeah, that's correct. In
7 the past we always tried to keep the sport fishing
8 regulations as liberal as possible to ensure that people
9 that wanted to collect their subsistence fish rod and reel
10 had that opportunity. Because in many cases it's
11 absolutely the most efficient way to get the animals you're
12 trying to get. These regulation changes that happened in
13 the Kuskokwim, for example, are the Holitna River down
14 stream. Up in your area the limit is still 10 per day no
15 size limit of grayling, for example. Ten northern pike, no
16 size limit, those things like that. But in these areas
17 where we've seen an increase in the use of the resource by
18 guided and unguided fishermen, primarily from outside the
19 area, we've had to go to a more restrictive bag limit. And
20 as we mentioned earlier, there are plans during the summer
21 season to go to a no catch regulation. Again, we're trying
22 to provide opportunity for local people to harvest these
23 animals with rod and reel by having a season closure as
24 opposed to just a year-round restriction.

25
26 So yes, in some cases you -- in State waters where
27 there isn't this allowance for hook and line subsistence
28 fishing at the present time, you may find yourself having
29 to put a gillnet out instead of using a fishing pole to be
30 legal. And of course, that's a situation that we are
31 interested in remedying and that's what this rod and reel
32 subsistence thing at the Board of Fish is all about.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions? If
35 not, thank you. We'll be watching this issue pretty
36 closely, too, since we are going into fisheries. Let's
37 take a five minute break for coffee.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: If we could drift back to
44 our seats I would like to reconvene.

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to call the meeting
49 back to order. At this time I would like to reemphasize
50 that the reason we have our subsistence regional council

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1 meetings out in the Bush is to gather input from the local
2 residents, local councils and local Native organizations.
3 At this time I would like to start with Kuskokwim Native
4 Association followed by Tanana Chief's Conference. And
5 again, I would like some help from Carl, if there's other
6 local tribal organizations that want to be recognized,
7 please point them out to me.

8
9 So at this time I would like to turn the floor over
10 to Angie Morgan, KNA.

11
12 MS. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
13 name is Angela Morgan. I'm the natural resource director
14 and also acting executive director for the Kuskokwim Native
15 Association. I passed out some information for the
16 Council on both the George and the Tatlawiksuk weir
17 projects that we have operating.

18
19 KNA started the George River weir project in 1996
20 in cooperation in co-managing with the Alaska Department of
21 Fish and Game and we receive our funds, both from State and
22 Federal agencies to operate the weir project. In 1998 we
23 received funds to operate the Tatlawiksuk River. This year
24 we were able to -- well, from 1996 to 1998 we had what we
25 call the fixed weirs both in George and Tatlawiksuk. This
26 year we got some funds from the Magnesian-Stevens Act and
27 we were able to get a floating weir at these sites.

28
29 The reason why we started the weir projects is
30 because the people in the middle Kuskokwim River area, the
31 local people, have been expressing their concern that they
32 know that there's something wrong with the fish in the
33 area. They haven't been seeing as many as they usually do.
34 And we brought this to the attention of Fish and Game and
35 Fish and Wildlife but we were never able to do anything
36 about it because we had no data to prove that there is
37 something wrong with the fish in the area. Now, that we
38 have these projects going, we're able to give out the data
39 like the ones that I show you here and I also have some
40 handouts there for all the people that are here. And when
41 we started out the weir projects, KNA, at the George River,
42 the project had a crew leader with the Alaska Department of
43 Fish and Game. Last year, KNA took that project over from
44 Fish and Game and we are now operating KNA -- KNA's
45 operating the weir project at the George River with our
46 crew leader and one technician from Fish and Game. The
47 Tatlawiksuk is being operated by Department of Fish and
48 Game with their crew leader and KNA's technician and we're
49 looking to taking that over also in the future, probably
50 next year.

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1 So as you can see in the handout, in 1996 at the
2 George River, we were only able to operate for one month
3 because of the high water. In 1997 and 1999, those are the
4 years that in 1999 we operated the George for three and a
5 half months. In 1997 we operated for four months. If you
6 look at 1996 for that one month, the numbers in one month,
7 was 7,487 chinook compared to 1997 the four months that
8 fish were counted was 7,820 and in 1999 for three and a
9 half months was only 3,535. So you see that there's a --
10 in 1996 there was a whole bunch just within a month and in
11 1997 and in 1999 for four months, that's extremely low
12 numbers.

13
14 The Tatlawiksuk, we operated in 1998, was when we
15 started last year and we were not able to function the
16 whole summer because of high water. This year we were able
17 to operate all the way up until September 20th and you have
18 the numbers there.

19
20 The other thing that KNA is looking forward to
21 doing in the future is having a species apportionment on
22 the Aniak River like we've always been saying, they have
23 the sonar project there, Fish and Game had the sonar -- the
24 Department had the sonar project since 1980. And according
25 to the Department, the Aniak River is the largest producer
26 of chum salmon for the Kuskokwim River. What we'd like to
27 do because of the escapement number that they have on the
28 Aniak River, like Carl said earlier, we don't really know
29 what the sonar is counting. As you can see in the George
30 River and the Tatlawiksuk, the numbers there, there's a lot
31 of suckers that are counted also so you never know how many
32 suckers they might have on the Aniak River that the sonar
33 is counting. In 1997 there were more suckers than there
34 were chinook salmon that were counted on the George River.
35 So we never really know what we're counting on the Aniak
36 River and we sure would like to have the species
37 apportionment project on the Aniak River.

38
39 The other thing that I wanted to talk about is the
40 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group. I'm on
41 that committee, and also Nathan Underwood is on the working
42 group. We have meetings starting mid-June. This summer
43 was really a disappointing summer for me as a working group
44 member. When we had our meetings we also had reports from
45 Bethel test fisheries, Kwethluk tower, Aniak sonar, the
46 George and Tatlawiksuk weir projects. All numbers indicate
47 that there was no fish and, yet, we had a commercial test
48 opening. It really affected the people up river because
49 the people up here were already having problems trying to
50 get the fish that wasn't really here. People were spending

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1 more money, more time, taking time off work to get what
2 they needed, and having the early test fish commercial
3 opening also hindered the people in getting what they need
4 up here.

5
6 People further up river like Sleetmute and Stony
7 River weren't able to get all the fish that they needed
8 during the summer season so they decided that they would go
9 ahead and wait for the coho season. Again, in August all
10 numbers indicated, with all the projects that we have,
11 Bethel, Quinhagak -- I mean Bethel, Kwethluk, George and
12 Tatlawiksuk, all numbers again indicated that numbers were
13 low and, again, we had another test commercial opening. A
14 lot of the people up river in Stoney River and Sleetmute
15 were looking forward to the coho season because they
16 weren't able to get what they needed during the chinook and
17 chum season. So people really hurt up here, up -- further
18 up from the Aniak and I just wanted to bring that to your
19 attention.

20
21 I kind of wonder, I keep asking maybe what we need
22 to do with the numbers, with the disasters that we're
23 having every year now, since 1993, that maybe what we need
24 to do is higher our escapement goals. I think that really
25 needs to be looked into.

26
27 One other concern I have in fisheries, with all the
28 problems that we're having in the middle Kuskokwim and
29 upper Kuskokwim with our subsistence, Quinhagak has been
30 having openings almost every day all summer, so it seems,
31 anyway. I've asked before with Quinhagak having their
32 openings, are they not intercepting the salmon that come up
33 the Kuskokwim to spawn? I think that needs to be looked
34 into.

35
36 The other thing that KNA is working with or talking
37 with people are people are having problems with the moose
38 season again. Like everybody else says, we get more
39 hunters, a lot of wanton waste. More and more the local
40 people here are going further and further away from their
41 own hunting grounds because they have so many other outside
42 hunters in the area. People are spending more money on
43 gas, they're going further away because all their hunting
44 grounds are being used by somebody else.

45
46 This summer we didn't get our moose. We were
47 really happy when we were asked if Fish and Game or Fish
48 and Wildlife, one of those people had asked if there was
49 anybody in Aniak that would like to get part of a moose
50 that was confiscated from the illegal hunting procedures or

00174

1 whatever. I gladly accepted that moose. The problem with
2 that moose was that it was already wasted. I ended up
3 getting just a small portion of it because it was sour. I
4 didn't have -- all the bones, I had to take -- we just had
5 a little bit of that half a moose that we were supposed to
6 get. And this is a real big concern for our local people,
7 is wanton waste.

8
9 The other problem that we're having or that people
10 are talking about is wolf control. I don't know how many
11 of you people here heard about the incident in Chuathbaluk
12 this summer. People were losing their dogs in their yard
13 that were tied. There was eight dogs that were eaten by
14 wolves right in the village of Chuathbaluk. Local people
15 there actually seen wolves there. There's something wrong
16 with that, we need to do something about those wolves. I
17 mean, gee, this lady come out of her house and she just
18 find the tail of her dog, nothing else, the wolves got that
19 dog.

20
21 So those are the concerns and these are the
22 projects that we have, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for
23 inviting me to participate with your meeting.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Angie. Will you
26 be here throughout the day?

27
28 MS. MORGAN: Yes, I will.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, I would like you to
31 sit in when we bring Randy Rogers up, we're looking into
32 some intensive moose management policies in the Kuskokwim
33 River region. Some of your problems may be addressed
34 there. And I'm sorry that we had to have a teleconference
35 over at the other building, and we are pursuing a lot more
36 enforcement as far as the wanton waste and the reporting,
37 people checking in and all that. I think that the Innoko
38 Wildlife Refuge is wholly successful in implementing their
39 programs towards trying to make sure that locals were
40 successful in their harvest, some of that may come out
41 during the Koyukuk River Intensive Moose Management report.

42
43 So you are more than welcome to sit in. Do we have
44 any questions for Angie at this time? If not, did you want
45 us to draft any proposals or have any letters written in
46 your support for anything?

47
48 MS. MORGAN: Well, I wouldn't mind if you
49 write a letter supporting my projects, fisheries projects
50 that I'm going to be applying for. I'm putting in

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1 proposals to do the species apportionment on the Aniak
2 River, and I'm also looking for more funds to keep the weir
3 projects operating this summer -- I mean for the next --
4 hopefully for the next four or five more years.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, since we're taking over
7 fisheries I think that it behooves all of us to pursue
8 funding for these studies. Do you have that on record,
9 Vince?

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that you
12 want a letter of support for the current fisheries projects
13 by Kuskokwim Native Association. You'll need to discuss
14 this further -- I mean the letter is fine but this
15 discussion will come up during the training session on data
16 needs and other things. And at the same time we're
17 somewhere in the process of doing a complete summary of all
18 the monitoring projects that are generally done with tribal
19 or Native or others on the rivers. So these will parallel.
20 But, yes, it's on the record, a letter of support. I'll
21 just need to make some kind of linkage, which is obviously
22 there but I need to have it in the letter, that these fish
23 are harvested on Federal public lands.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: I'm just warning you that we
28 can't just pick projects outside of Federal lands.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we probably shouldn't.
33 So anyways, we'll get to that and then when you're involved
34 with your training and other things then you're going to
35 have to assist over time with prioritizing these projects.
36 I'll remind you of that that that's going to come down the
37 road. So anyways, good.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida, did you have anything
40 to add?

41
42 MS. HILDEBRAND: (Nods negatively)

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further questions
45 for Angie? Samson.

46
47 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman, Angie, just for
48 my information on those suckers, is that -- we have
49 different kind of suckers maybe, I don't know, what we call
50 sucker fish up around Allakaket. And I guess they might be

00176

1 the same thing, what was that again, yeah, right there,
2 long-nose suckers?

3
4 MS. MORGAN: I just know them as suckers so
5 I really don't know. The reason why we put them on here is
6 because we were really surprised at how many passed through
7 the weir and how big they are, they're pretty big -- pretty
8 big suckers. And we're just putting them on there to kind
9 of like to let people know that when they have the sonar,
10 they're using the sonar, you never really know what you're
11 counting. And the numbers of the suckers are just about
12 even with the chinook.

13
14 MR. HENRY: Uh-huh.

15
16 MS. MORGAN: I don't know what kind you
17 have up there but I just know them as suckers.

18
19 MR. HENRY: The ones we call suckers, you
20 know, they're about that long, up there, and then -- well,
21 in spring time, you know, there's spring time, there's
22 pikes go up Kanuti River in good size schools and then the
23 sucker fish, what we call sucker fish, and then a white
24 fish. They have different times of going up Kanuti River
25 in spring after break up.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: I was wondering, would you do
32 a weir project on the Aniak River, is that for the
33 apportionment, is that what you're project would be?

34
35 MS. MORGAN: If we did a weir project on
36 the Aniak, we would probably go way up river because the
37 Aniak River is really deep. The weir projects that we have
38 in both the George and the Tatlawiksuk -- in the George
39 River, the weir goes from bank to bank, across. The one at
40 Tatlawiksuk is a half a weir. I don't know if it would be
41 feasible to have one on the Aniak River. The current
42 changes quite a bit, too, on the Aniak River.

43
44 MR. REAKOFF: Um.

45
46 MS. MORGAN: So it would be kind of hard.
47 I think the species apportionment would have to kind of
48 like be either seining or gillnetting or something like
49 that.

50

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1 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have something, Ida?

4

5 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff
6 Committee member. In response to Jack's question and
7 Angie's response, weirs can be used to gather data to make
8 apportionment decisions. But one of the most important
9 things weirs do is they tell you exactly what species has
10 passed the sonar and what species are in your local
11 streams. But it is data that can be used in many decision-
12 making and especially important to this Council and to the
13 Federal Board.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Do we have any
16 more questions for Angie? David.

17

18 MR. JAMES: Hi Angie. I would just like to
19 -- it seems like your issues and your concerns are the same
20 issues as we have in the upper Yukon Flats and, we do have
21 the same concerns as you guys, definitely the same thing.
22 I just wanted to congratulate you on your projects, your
23 fishery projects, because that is the thing, the data that
24 we really need to make decisions. We're in the process of
25 doing our weir projects there, too, and I'd really like to
26 come down and visit your weir projects next summer.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, David. Any
31 further questions for, Angie?

32

33 MS. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman, one other thing
34 that I forgot to mention.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead.

37

38 MS. MORGAN: The weir projects that we have
39 are on State land but I -- like I said before, I submitted
40 five proposals before I was able to get one approved and
41 the majority of the proposals that I submitted to were
42 Federal agencies. One way that I was able to get funds
43 from the Federal agencies was indicating to them that the
44 projects that I'm doing affects all the Federal lands down
45 river. So that's how I was able to get funded for the
46 weirs.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you for that
49 clarification. Do we have anything further for Angie? If
50 not, thank you, and we take your testimony pretty

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1 seriously.

2
3 MS. MORGAN: Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, again. We have
6 Tanana Chief's, Gabe Sam, he says about five minutes
7 because I think some of his report will be tied into Randy
8 Rogers.

9
10 MS. SAM: Mr. Chairman, Western Interior
11 Regional Advisory Council. My name is Gabe Sam. I'm the
12 director of wildlife and parks for Tanana Chief's
13 Conference. First of all I would like to apologize to the
14 Fort Yukon people, I didn't make it up there because I was
15 called to another very important meeting in Huslia, the
16 Koyukuk River and middle Yukon Advisory Committee was
17 having their meeting up there. This meeting has been
18 coming to a long time, slow boil, and so we had some real
19 serious concerns that we had to deal with.

20
21 First of all, I would like to just say for one of
22 the things that we're working in terms of fisheries
23 projects, I sit on the Yukon River panel as an advisory to
24 the Yukon River panel for the state of Alaska, and we're in
25 negotiations with Canada and the monies that we get are
26 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. And we do apply for these
27 funds through U.S. Fish and Wildlife to do fisheries
28 projects, and Tanana Chief's has successfully got some
29 monies to do some projects and hopefully next year we're
30 going to be in our third year of doing that. Some of the
31 projects that we got from Bering Sea Fishermen's
32 Association. And right now with Angie and Tim Andrews,
33 we're trying to start the Kuskokwim River Drainage
34 Fishermen's Association, something similar to YRDFA. We
35 feel that there is a problem on the Kuskokwim River,
36 obviously, so we're trying to organize that and trying to
37 get monies together for that.

38
39 Like anything, like last year at this same meeting
40 that was held in Allakaket, you know, I am from the Koyukuk
41 River, I'm originally from Huslia, obviously I'm going to
42 have strong feelings about it. Sometimes my words could be
43 a bit harsh, but we are living in some pretty harsh times.
44 An ADF&G Staff member came up to me after this last meeting
45 and said, I thought we were good friends, you know, I
46 thought we were getting along pretty good, my answer was,
47 business is business, friends is friends, but when it comes
48 to our people on the Koyukuk River, you know, unable to
49 harvest what they need, all bets are off, you know, that's
50 just the way it is.

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1 And you know, what happened in Huslia, you know,
2 when I got back, I have people to answer to. I have a
3 boss, you know, to answer to and, of course, he wants to
4 know why, you know, I have -- I use such strong
5 terminologies and what not and it's pretty hard for me to,
6 you know, see what's going on up there and be nice about it
7 and I am really trying to be nice about it. I'm trying to
8 be respectful and professional and you know, it's not like
9 I got up there and swear -- cuss everybody out or nothing.
10 But it's -- there is no big secret, the Koyukuk River has
11 the most moose population density in the state of Alaska.

12
13 So we -- a few years ago, the Koyukuk River Moose
14 Co-management started up with help from my program, Stanley
15 Ned was helping them coordinate these meetings with village
16 from Koyukuk all the way up to Bettles. They held meetings
17 but the problem was funding. We asked ADF&G Department for
18 funding, they said they didn't have any monies and so we --
19 our meetings were very limited. A lot of people went to
20 these meetings on a volunteer basis. And so what happened
21 was we could not meet so we meet with Department in Koyukuk
22 and they heard the concerns there, they said they were
23 going to help out and the next thing we know there's this
24 Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group began -- started
25 up. And we followed it along for awhile and, you know, I
26 currently sit on the Fortymile Caribou Management Planning
27 Team as a member, you know, and we say through that -- it's
28 a pretty diverse planning group from big game guides to
29 environmentalists who, you know, just people who live up
30 there. And I am a voting member on that panel. But for
31 one reason or not, Tanana Chief's Conference is not a part
32 of this working group. We are sitting in the background
33 voicing our concerns, whether it's being documented or
34 what, but we're not a voting member, and that is very
35 concerning to us at Tanana Chief's Conference because this
36 is a very important issue for us.

37
38 So I wrote down a bunch of things that, you know,
39 we wanted to get pushed a meeting in Huslia because a lot
40 of people were concerned there. And this notion that they
41 didn't want Tanana Chief's -- the villages didn't want
42 Tanana Chief's is not true. I asked around, a lot of the
43 tribal members and working group members very much wanted
44 to hear our concerns but they actually thought we were a
45 part of the working group already and the people in Huslia
46 that we were part of the working group and were concerned
47 that we're not.

48
49 One of the concerns we have is the Huslia check
50 station. We're pushing for a Huslia check station because

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1 that it's a loophole and it really needs to be seriously
2 considered. Because there's a lot of hunters coming in
3 that go from the airport right to the riverbank. Now, I
4 heard they had to have a hunting permit picked up from
5 Mabel Vince store and then go on but that's not the case.
6 A lot of the hunters go from the airport right to the boat.
7 And I went -- I went to Huslia this fall.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gabe.

10
11 MS. SAM: Yes.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much of your concerns
14 concern the Koyukuk River Moose Management, the whole
15 thing?

16
17 MS. SAM: Yes.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Could we bring in
20 Randy and then interject as needed.

21
22 MS. SAM: Sure.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Anything else you had
25 besides the Koyukuk River Moose Management?

26
27 MS. SAM: Well, I have a couple suggestions
28 that could help clear up this problem.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: A brief synopsis of your
31 suggestions.

32
33 MS. SAM: Okay, one of the things is if the
34 big game hunters are going to, you know, salvage the meat,
35 one idea that I brought up to this working group is of
36 course they're going to salvage this meat they're going to
37 bring it back to where they go but they're going to toss it
38 anyway. So one of the ideas I came up with is Tanana
39 Chief's Conference has an elder's nutrition program. And
40 every year they are running out of meat. So if the meat is
41 going to be tossed anyway, the tribal members from Huslia
42 could go out there skin the moose and bring it back and
43 freeze it and store it for the elder's nutrition program at
44 Tanana Chief's, that's one possibility. That way the meat
45 won't be wasted and we know for a fact that it's going to
46 be fairly taken care of.

47
48 And that the Koyukuk middle Yukon -- Koyukuk --
49 Tanana Chief's endorsed the idea of non-resident guides be
50 guided, that's a big issue. And one of the other issues

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1 was transporters. There's a lot of transporters that are
2 on the borderline of being guides, they just -- there's not
3 a clear definition there, they're not really monitored so
4 that's one of the ideas.

5
6
7 And basically there's a social problem in the
8 community of Huslia. Families are divided. Like I said in
9 Huslia, it's father against son, friends that were once
10 friends are no longer friends. There's a division there
11 that's going to go on for years to come and it's all for a
12 few bucks. So you know, that's what we're facing up there
13 on the Koyukuk River.

14
15 And you know, I had a whole list of stuff here but,
16 you know, there were 694 hunters up the Koyukuk River.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that all this
19 information will be coming out at Randy's report.

20
21 MS. SAM: Okay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: And a lot of your
24 suggestions have already been turned into proposals or are
25 in the progress of being turned into proposals.

26
27 MS. SAM: Well, Mr. Chair, I have a whole
28 list here that was brought up at one of the -- the August
29 7th meeting and a lot of what would benefit the Koyukuk
30 River has been rejected. And here's the plan -- original
31 plan that's now being brought forward.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: If it was rejected by the
34 Koyukuk River Moose Working Group there may have been a
35 reason but they can be reintroduced by the Koyukuk Advisory
36 Committee, the middle Yukon Advisory Committee. And if
37 they were rejected there may be because of political
38 reasons between State, Feds and in between.

39
40 MS. SAM: Well, that's all I have for now,
41 Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. And you may be
44 called upon when we get in depth with Randy Rogers. Both
45 Gabe, Sam and Randy Rogers have an early flight so before
46 we go into anything else we'd like to hit the Koyukuk River
47 Moose Management -- intensive management plan.

48
49 Vince, you have something?

50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't realize that so my
2 response wouldn't be appropriate. I was just thinking that
3 you wanted to put off the Koyukuk River until after lunch
4 but that won't work.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the feelings of the
7 Board, do you want to continue or start with Koyukuk River
8 moose management?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Because my suggestion was
11 going to be if BLMS reports were going to be fairly short,
12 if you were going to go to lunch, would be to knock them
13 off. The complexity of the Koyukuk River may not work well
14 on your lunch. So -- meaning you might want to.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the feelings of the
17 Council?

18
19 MR. COLLINS: What time does the flight
20 leave?

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: 3:00 o'clock, I think.
23 Randy?

24
25 MR. ROGERS: Yes, sir. We've got time if
26 you want to wait until after lunch.

27
28 MR. COLLINS: We've got from 1:00 to 3:00
29 or whatever in there, why don't we get rid of something
30 short.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. How many short
33 reports.....

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I
36 think.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM:do we have?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS:BLM has indicated across
41 the room that theirs is fairly short. I don't want to put
42 down their reports nor the Migratory Bird Treaty but Bob
43 Stevens talked to you that he's on the 3:00 o'clock. Well,
44 I don't know, Randy could we get you on the 6:50 flight
45 or.....

46
47 MR. ROGERS: Well, I tried to get on it and
48 he's fully booked.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Shoot. Okay. Well, what we

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1 could do is a working lunch. You've never done that but
2 the importance of this topic, I think, is going to require
3 pretty good concentration. The sandwiches I can get and we
4 can do a working lunch. I know the Staff will remind me
5 later that they didn't like that. But I think the
6 complexity of this would be to best to maximize the time,
7 to seize the moment and let the food be part of it.
8 There's quite a bit to work through on this Koyukuk thing,
9 at least, that's the way I'm seeing the positions falling
10 out now. So I can run and get the sandwiches and we can
11 work through lunch on that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can you have them delivered
14 or do you have to pick them up?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: No, they're already ordered,
17 someone just has to pick them up at noon, that's it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the pleasure of the
20 Council?

21
22 MR. COLLINS: I can whistle while we eat.

23
24 MR. STICKMAN: I'd like to work through
25 lunch, too.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Or do you want to do the
28 small reports and then go into lunch and.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS:then have a Koyukuk
33 River moose lunch and then go from there.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Small reports.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, BLM would come up and
38 do their reports, which generally they're pretty small
39 because they usually talk to you guys in private on the
40 issues that are pertaining to your spots.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: BLM. What's -- just go
43 ahead.

44
45 MR. YOKEL: Mr. Chairman, Council members,
46 I'm Dave Yokel with the BLM's northern field office. Vince
47 provided me with a name plate so I'll put it up there.

48
49 If you have your map here and if you fold it in
50 half as I have done you'll have a rough idea of which of

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1 the BLM lands in your region are managed out of the
2 Fairbanks's northern field office and which are managed out
3 of the Anchorage field office. The orange lands above the
4 fold are those managed out of the northern field office
5 where I work and those are the ones that I'm here to
6 address. To the best of my knowledge we have no real
7 wildlife issues or wildlife projects on those lands to
8 report to you at this meeting.

9
10 Since we are moving into fisheries management now I
11 would like to address fisheries management very briefly
12 from a BLM perspective. In those BLM lands in your region
13 managed through the northern field office there are no
14 waters, to the best of my knowledge, that are covered by
15 this new Federal Subsistence Fisheries management.
16 However, we do have fisheries work going on in that area
17 and so I'd like to very briefly cover some of that work for
18 you so that you're aware of what we're doing.

19
20 The Hogatza River is a tributary to the Koyukuk
21 River and the BLM has been having an escapement project in
22 cooperation with the Tanana Chief's Conference for several
23 years on Clear Creek which is a tributary to the Hogatza
24 River. And Clear Creek has a fairly significant run of
25 chum salmon. This again, as I said, this is a cooperative
26 project with TCC and the data from that project are shared
27 with ADF&G to assist with in-season management of the chum
28 salmon fishery. In addition to this weir project on Clear
29 Creek, BLM has been doing some aerial surveys on two other
30 creeks on the Hogatza drainage, the Caribou Creek and
31 pardon me if I mispronounce this, the (indiscernible)
32 Creek. And because the Hogatza River is a very significant
33 -- makes a very significant contribution to chum salmon
34 runs, we are considering increasing our effort on that
35 drainage by some kind of project, maybe a sonar project for
36 the main channel of the Hogatza River. That was proposed
37 for this fiscal year which just started two weeks ago, of
38 course, we don't have a budget yet for this fiscal year so
39 I have no idea at this time if that project will go on.

40
41 Further up the Koyukuk drainage along the Dalton
42 Highway there is one small river, the Jim River that does
43 have king and chum salmon runs. This river is included in
44 ADF&G's group of index streams that they survey. The BLM
45 has been doing some work on understanding spawning habitat
46 in the reaches of that river for the last few years.

47
48 So that's very briefly what I wanted to cover with
49 fisheries management. The only other thing that I wanted
50 to say today was that we have recently hired two new

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1 wildlife biologists in the northern field office to replace
2 two biologists that resigned a little over a year ago.
3 Now, that we have these two new wildlife biologists, we are
4 looking at reallocating the work load among the five
5 wildlife biologists in the district. And one of the things
6 that's going to fall out of that reallocation is that I
7 will probably be no longer be working with the Western
8 Interior Regional Advisory Council. Tim Craig, who's with
9 me over here, will probably be the wildlife biologist who
10 will be working with you from BLMs northern field office.
11 So at this time I would just like to say that over the last
12 seven or eight years, however long it's been that this
13 Council's been in existence, it's been a great pleasure for
14 me to work with you. You do good work and I'm sure you'll
15 keep it up and I just wanted to say thank you, I've learned
16 a lot from working with you over the years.

17
18 And that's all I have. If you have any questions
19 for me I'll try to answer them now or I'll take the
20 questions back and get the answers for you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, before I open the
23 floor, thanks for your service and your participation in
24 our meetings, too, Dave.

25
26 MR. YOKEL: You're welcome.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any questions for Dave? Go
29 ahead.

30
31 MR. JONES: Dave, when that Hogatza River
32 weir project, does that mining operation have any affect,
33 do you have a holding pond or something for that mining
34 operation?

35
36 MR. YOKEL: Right off hand I can't answer
37 that for you Benedict. I know that there has been a fair
38 bit of work going on in the Hog River with some of the
39 mining operations and the affect on the salmon runs. But I
40 don't personally know what the results of that work are so
41 I will have to get with the fisheries biologist when I get
42 back in Fairbanks and find an answer to that and have them
43 address it to you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dave. Benedict,
46 when I was working there in 1970s it just shot right out
47 into the river and that's why the Hog River was red -- red
48 and brown. I don't know what the operations is or what the
49 regulations are since that time.

50

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1 MR. YOKEL: If there are salmon runs in the
2 same system as a gold dredge is operating, it's hard to be
3 that there's not some impact on the salmon runs but I can't
4 address it directly to you right now.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the salmon run like
7 in that river?

8
9 MR. YOKEL: We don't know for the Hogatza
10 -- well, actually maybe somebody from Commercial Fisheries
11 can address that better than me. I think what I've got is
12 that it may provide up to 20 percent of chum salmon state
13 wide.

14
15 MR. GOLEMBESKI: I don't know about that
16 comment about 20 percent of chum salmon state wide, it's a
17 -- I can honestly say that's not true.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Two percent maybe?

20
21 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Yeah, that's more of the
22 magnitude -- well, not even that much for state wide for
23 chum salmon production. It doesn't even come close. But I
24 can tell you what the escapement counts have been the last
25 could of years and it's -- the Clear Creek project is a
26 counting tower, not a weir. It's been in existence in
27 1995, and that year we had about 117,000 chum salmon that
28 were passed through. In 1996 we had about 101,000 chum
29 salmon that were passed. In 1997 we had 76,000 chum salmon
30 that were passed. In 1998 due to high water and other
31 conditions we weren't able to run the project. And this
32 year under also high water conditions and stuff like that
33 we had a passage of about 11,300. So there are some
34 significant numbers of chum salmon that go into the Clear
35 Creek which like David said is a tributary of the Hog River
36 which is a tributary to Koyukuk River. So it does make a
37 good proportion of the Koyukuk River escapements but it's
38 not that significant state wide at 20 percent or even two
39 percent.

40
41 But it is a significant contributor and it is
42 something that we monitor. Even before we had this
43 counting tower we've used the Clear Creek as an aerial
44 survey index. It's kind of a dangerous one to fly
45 consistently, all the twists, turns and bends, it's pretty
46 windy. It's not the safest one to do and we haven't done
47 that in a number of years. But we did have an aerial
48 service escapement goal. And along with Caribou Creek,
49 it's neighbor, also drains in there where the mine is. And
50 I'm not familiar -- I've only really flown over that mine

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1 once and I don't remember if there's a holding pond or not,
2 I kind of think that there was because there was a fair
3 amount of standing water there but maybe Gabe could tell
4 you on that. I think he's flown that area a little more
5 than myself, either that or Kevin VanHatten, one of his
6 employees has. But I don't fly that on a regular basis.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any further
9 questions for Dave Yokel?

10
11 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman, you have a fish
12 counting tower up in Clear Creek?

13
14 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Yes, sir, TCC and BLM runs
15 it and then they provide us with the information and we try
16 to use that for in-season management.

17
18 MR. HENRY: Do you have a counting tower up
19 the Hog River?

20
21 MR. GOLEMBESKI: No, there's no other
22 counting towers up the Hog River, just at the Clear Creek
23 project.

24
25 MR. HENRY: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. YOKEL: There has been some aerial
28 surveys but they don't provide the type of data that you
29 get from the counting tower.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Dave. Who's our
32 new manager?

33
34 MR. YOKEL: Tim Craig.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have Jeff, do you have
37 a report Jeff?

38
39 MR. DENTON: I'm Jeff Denton with the
40 Anchorage field office of BLM and I'm not going anywhere,
41 you'll see me. For your information, I guess, BLM has a
42 new State Director who will be sitting on the Board. And
43 he came on-line earlier this summer, I don't think,
44 probably most of you have met him yet. His name is Fran
45 Cherry, he came up here from Montana. He's probably on a
46 learning curve relative to the subsistence program up here
47 and I'm sure he'll be -- have numerous briefings on it. So
48 that's for your information in terms of a major personnel
49 change of one of the fellows that takes part in making the
50 main decisions here.

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1 Also I brought with me, for this meeting, Dave
2 Stimpson, he's the Anchorage field office Ranger, our
3 enforcement man. And he is right here. And hopefully
4 he'll be coordinating some of the BLM land enforcement
5 issues we have out here. We have plenty of issues it's a
6 matter of logistics and dollars and making the -- having
7 enough contacts out here to get a program going out here.

8
9 Okay, back to old business. Over the last several
10 years ownership map BLM was supposed to produce for you
11 folks for users in the Innoko and Yukon bottoms there has
12 been an issue. You've written several letters to our State
13 Director and so on. The last one did get some people off
14 dead center and we got all the technical computer GIS work
15 done on that now, all we need to do is go to contract and
16 have it printed up, a limited printing, and then we'll
17 distribute that and see what -- how the acceptance is
18 before we go to a major type of printing operation. So
19 there is some movement on that and it's been a long time
20 coming. Then again I've got a -- we don't have a budget
21 yet this year, I've got to try to allocate some funds to
22 get that under contract and get it printed and this sort of
23 thing. So it's coming and I appreciate your patience for
24 one, and your perseverance in prodding, you know, the
25 people above my level along to keep that thing in -- at
26 least, in the works.

27
28 As far as the harvest reporting, this is more old
29 business. Again, Lime Village reporting has been pretty
30 good. It picked up again here at the end of the year so
31 we've got some new folks doing the reporting there so
32 there's a little bit of a learning curve. I've been
33 authorized now to pay those people out of the District
34 Office so the payment through Denver and San Francisco loop
35 as been cut so that should be much more efficient to pay
36 these folks.

37
38 The GASH area harvest reporting, there's no
39 progress been made on that. Holy Cross wrote a letter and
40 said they were ready to do that but they keep advertising
41 that position for folks, someone in Holy Cross to take it
42 up, nobody's done it, nobody's accepted or wanted to do it,
43 I guess. They haven't got an individual.

44
45 In Grayling, Gabe Nicholia was doing a very good
46 job and then he left the country for awhile and then came
47 back and kind of picked it up but we have big gaps in the
48 information, so there's no continuity there, and this is a
49 concern. And so we're having very limited success in the
50 GASH area with harvest reporting and we need -- before BLM

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1 spends more -- commits more manpower and monies to trying
2 to get this thing going we need a lot more firm commitment
3 that it's going to happen. That there's people to do it
4 and people to do it consistently through time. It's an
5 expensive venture for us. I allocate monies to do it every
6 year, I turn them back every year. And so my bosses aren't
7 really happy with having to turn money back in when we
8 allocate it.

9
10 So it becomes more difficult for me to push these
11 issues when we don't have the response from out in the
12 Bush. So that's a grave concern of mine. It's a very much
13 needed database that we don't have to apply to management
14 decisions. So we intend to cooperate with Fish and Game on
15 the moose survey that's planned, hopefully for March of
16 this year with Toby out of McGrath. And I will be involved
17 in that. I've got four moose surveys scheduled for the
18 same time so I've got to juggle priorities here. I cover
19 half the state for BLM lands and 20 different moose
20 populations all of which I'm supposed to be working on so
21 there's short windows to do a lot of this work.

22
23 From a fisheries standpoint I'll have to echo what
24 Dave said in terms of navigable waters. For the Anchorage
25 field office portion of your region there are no Federal
26 waters on BLM lands.

27
28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You might have the
29 Unalakleet.

30
31 MR. DENTON: The Unalakleet is not in this
32 region it's in the Seward Peninsula region. And so from a
33 BLM standpoint we have basically no role in the Federal
34 fisheries program.

35
36 Projects that we've done in the last summer,
37 basically all the Anchorage field office BLM lands in your
38 region have now been.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much more do you have?

41
42 MR. DENTON: Pardon?

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: How much more do you have?

45
46 MR. DENTON: Just one item and that's it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

49
50 MR. DENTON: We've been having a long-term

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1 relationship with Ducks Unlimited for land cover mapping
2 and habitat mapping on a large scale of kind of a gross
3 basis. All the BLM lands have been done and a great deal
4 of the corporation lands and State lands has also been
5 done. So we've got everything basically from the
6 Andreafsky River to the Susitna River done. And so those
7 -- the field work's been done, the final product, maps,
8 computer analysis sorts of things will be delivered in May
9 of next year. So those things should be available to you
10 folks for a lot of different purposes.

11
12 That's all I've got. If you have any questions
13 give me a holler.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Henry.

16
17 MR. DEACON: A couple years ago you came to
18 Holy Cross about land mark -- corporation marks, but you
19 know there was no response or there was no marks. That's a
20 big concern around our village, Shageluk and Grayling, and
21 Anvik. Those marks, the land corporation should be
22 surveyed and marked so we can say well, this is -- we want
23 to close those areas but if we don't -- you know, we're
24 just kind of guessing about from where to where. Those are
25 concerns of the village.

26
27 MR. DENTON: Yeah, the BLM policy has been
28 for marking 17(B) easements. Of course the Native
29 allotments have been surveyed, we've surveyed all the ones
30 that are certificated, those -- the survey markers are
31 there. And we're not going to be marking private lands
32 from this point on. We surveyed them but we're not going
33 to be putting Federal money on to private lands or
34 corporation lands which are basically private lands. The
35 17(B) easements through those lands is what we were dealing
36 with here a couple years ago, and we had helicopters and
37 the survey people lined up and crews lined up to mark
38 those, and at the last minute there was a decision that
39 came from Holy Cross that they didn't want to do that. And
40 it was dropped, kind of left us holding the bag with
41 helicopters and pilots ready to go and committed. And so
42 BLM's going to, again, need a much greater or firmer
43 commitment from folks out there that we're going to carry
44 through with these things before we start committing a lot
45 of people and manpower and dollars to have it cut off at
46 the end.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can you commit or transfer
49 those funds to one of the other local communities?

50

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1 MR. DENTON: Well, first we have to be able
2 to -- we have to have a project on-linen to get monies in
3 the first place to commit to that and transfer to them.
4 That can be done but that takes quite a bit of
5 administrative up front work. We just don't have a pot of
6 money sitting there, we have to go in with a project, ask
7 for it, get the money for it, do the paperwork and
8 agreements and then get on with business. So it's not
9 something we can just do at the snap of our fingers, it's a
10 fairly involved process.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
13 Jeff?

14
15 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jeff and we if
18 may, we may call you back on BLM lands again. One more
19 short item.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think Bob
22 Stevens' item is important but I think it is kind of brief
23 that he could bring up.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: What -- who is this now?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: It's with the Migratory Bird
28 Treaties. You guys discussed that in.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, about.....

31
32 MR. MATHEWS:Allakaket.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM:two minutes, I think.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Well.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Since I have not heard of
39 any organization or anything being formed and I do not know
40 if we have any jurisdiction on migratory birds or their
41 harvest or anything at this time.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Right, you're correct, you do
44 not have jurisdiction but one of the models is the regional
45 councils doing that. And so you may want to comment on
46 that since you might end up doing it. So I don't know we
47 can.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, let's get it out of the
50 way.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Right after this we'll bring
4 up Nowitna Wildlife Refuge, they're on the 3:00 o'clock
5 flight.

6

7 MR. STEVENS: My name is Bob Stevens. I'm
8 with the Migratory Bird Management Office of the U.S. Fish
9 and Wildlife Service. You may recall last October we did a
10 public meeting in Allakaket when you were meeting. In
11 fact, I think most of you were there. And at that time the
12 Native Migratory Bird Working Group and Alaska Department
13 of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were
14 gathering comments on how we might structure management
15 bodies to manage spring and summer subsistence hunting of
16 migratory birds. At that time we said that we would be
17 writing a document, we would get back to you on what is in
18 that document. The red book that had been mailed to you
19 earlier, I've also placed a copy in front of you here today
20 because I'll be referring to it here for a couple of
21 minutes, has in it four models based on what we heard when
22 we made our rounds last October, what seemed like might be
23 a wide range of alternatives for people to consider.

24

25 As Vince indicated, I think it is important that
26 you take a look at it if you haven't yet done so because
27 one of those four models involves the regional advisory
28 council. And I think it's important that either you, as a
29 council, make comments regarding these models or as
30 individuals, if you preferred to do that. But we would
31 like very much to know whether or not Model 2, which is the
32 one you would be involved in is workable and whether or not
33 this is something you would want to do. And we also would
34 like to know why you feel it would be workable or not be
35 workable so we have some idea.

36

37 Our time frame is that the -- the comment period
38 has been extended through October so we have until the end
39 of this month to accept comments. The Regional Director of
40 the Fish and Wildlife Service, Dave Allen, will be making a
41 decision on which model or which combination of models to
42 put into effect, he'll be making that decision in November.
43 We hope to have management bodies in place early in the
44 year 2000, and we hope to have regulations, the first
45 regulations for spring and summer migratory bird hunting in
46 place by the spring of 2001. So that's the time frame that
47 we're working under right now.

48

49 Maybe I could ask you at this point, would you like
50 me to, very quickly, give a comparison of the four models

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1 or just focus on the model that applies directly to you?
2 Do you have any preferences? I can go through the four
3 fairly quickly if you would like for me to do that?

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, do the four.

6

7 MR. STEVENS: Okay. Two things in your
8 book under Tab E, there is a synopsis of those four models.
9 Also I put the red book in front of you because I will be
10 referring to that a couple of times. But if it's easier
11 for you you can just use Tab E.

12

13 Model 1. Model 1 is set up with one state wide
14 management body. And the way it would operate is there
15 would be 12 regional partners. These partners have been
16 identified in here, they are proposed as is everything else
17 in here, there's nothing in concrete at this point. The
18 boundaries, the regional boundaries have been established
19 around the regional corporation boundaries only because
20 those are the boundaries that are most commonly recognized
21 so we have arbitrarily chosen those boundaries. The
22 regional partners under this alternative that we would use
23 would be mostly the non-profits, the regional associations,
24 the exception to that would be the North Slope Borough,
25 which would be the partner up there. In the case of the
26 Interior we would be looking at Tanana Chief's and CATG as
27 two partners for this particular region.

28

29 There would be a funding agreement with each of the
30 partners that would help to offset the cost because what we
31 have heard is that the partners probably would want to
32 establish regional migratory bird committees to address the
33 issues of their regions. One member of each of those 12
34 committees would sit on that state wide management body.
35 Recommendations from that management body would go to the
36 four Flyway Councils in the Lower 48 states and to the Fish
37 and Wildlife Service regulations committee in Washington,
38 D.C. It's important to understand that the Flyway Councils
39 do not have any voting power over those recommendations.
40 What they will do is, hopefully, add their approval to it
41 because when those recommendations go to the regulations
42 committee, if the Flyway Councils are in agreement it's
43 almost a sure thing that those are the regulations that
44 will be passed.

45

46 Some of the things to consider in Model 1 is that
47 with one state wide management body, the recommendations of
48 the subsistence hunters will go forth to the Lower 48
49 states with one state wide voice. That carries a lot of
50 weight when that happens.

00194

1 Another issue around this is that the members of
2 the state wide management body would have to become
3 familiar with the issues state wide and not just in your
4 individual region so there would be a lot more area for you
5 to become familiar with as far as the migratory bird issues
6 are concerned.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: We haven't accepted it yet.

9
10 MR. STEVENS: That's what I'm saying, if
11 that's the way it were to go that's what would happen. And
12 by the way, these four models, there is no preferred
13 alternative here. These are just four models laid out for
14 you to take a look at.

15
16 The management body itself would have 12 Native
17 representative sitting on the body up to three Federal and
18 up to three State representatives. And those three
19 entities would be equal partners on that management body.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: The pattern never changes.

22
23 MR. STEVENS: I'm sorry?

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: The pattern never changes.

26
27 MR. STEVENS: Well, at least it's equal
28 across the table on that one. Let's go to Model 2.

29
30 Model 2 is different in a couple of respects.
31 First of all it's the same, in that, it has one state wide
32 management body. So again, the advantages of that would
33 remain the same, the disadvantages remain the same but
34 instead of having the regional non-profit associations as
35 partners, what would happen here is the regional advisory
36 councils would be the equivalent of the regional migratory
37 bird committees that we talked about under alternative one.
38 And so that would be where you would come into play. There
39 would be 10 rather than 12 regional committees and you
40 would determine one member of your council to sit on that
41 state wide body. So the process would work very similar to
42 Model 1 except that the regional partners would not be
43 there, you would be in place of them. The recommendations
44 would go forward the same way, to the Flyway Councils and
45 to the Fish and Wildlife Service regulations committee.

46
47 One of the big issues that we talked about last
48 fall in making the rounds of this meeting, some of the
49 issues to be considered with Model 2 is the possible
50 confusion with Title VIII, which is what, of course, you

00195

1 deal with on a regular basis. Migratory birds, as you had
2 indicated do not come under Title VIII, they have been a
3 separate resource issue and so what would happen is when
4 the regional advisory councils would meet we probably would
5 just add a day or two, whatever the issues required, to the
6 end of that meeting, at which time you would be changing
7 hats and doing business in a very different way. Because
8 now the Federal representatives and the State
9 representatives would join you on that management body.

10
11 Other possible confusion around that is the fact
12 that your recommendations do not go to the Federal
13 Subsistence Board, they go directly to the Lower 48 states.
14 These do not apply strictly to Federal lands, this applies
15 to.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: It could be clear that we
18 won't accept it.

19
20 MR. STEVENS: Again, these are the models
21 if you have a chance to take a look at and.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Maybe.

24
25 MR. STEVENS:decide what you want to
26 do. But these are the possible confusing issues around
27 that. Something for you to think about.

28
29 Oh, one other issue, on that Model 2, that would be
30 the easiest and fastest to initiate because the structure
31 is already in place. It would also be the least expensive
32 to initiate.

33
34 Model 3. This becomes the most expensive one and
35 probably the most difficult to initiate. This one involves
36 seven management bodies rather than one state wide body.
37 And these seven management bodies are pretty well based on
38 resource values and some close combinations of cultural
39 identities. One of the advantages that has come to our
40 attention of this is that it brings management of migratory
41 birds closer to the local level because you have seven
42 bodies rather than one state wide. That's something that
43 some people find appealing. On the other hand when your
44 recommendations go to the Lower 48 states they do not go
45 with one voice, they go with seven voices. And one thing
46 that would need to happen is that the recommendations of
47 the seven management bodies would be consolidated by the
48 Fish and Wildlife Service migratory bird coordinator and
49 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game migratory bird or
50 waterfowl supervisor. So an issue to be considered there.

1
2

3 The regional partners would remain the same, 12
4 partners -- or the same 12 regions that we had before, they
5 would just be grouped differently. You might want to take
6 a look at Page 21 of your red book. And this will give you
7 an idea of how those regional partners would be grouped by
8 management body, it's Page 21 in the red book.

9

10 Management body number 7 is the one that would
11 apply to this region and again, TCC and CATG would be the
12 proposed partners for that particular management body and
13 then you can see how they would break down for the other
14 six models.

15

16 Model 4, and this is the final one. Model 4 pretty
17 much becomes a compromise model between the state wide
18 management body of Models 1 and 2 and the seven management
19 bodies of Model 3. This one has three management bodies
20 and these are broken down according to resource values.

21

22 One thing, let me go back to Model 3 a minute. One
23 of the issues around Model 3 is the relationship with the
24 Flyway Councils would not be as clear-cut as it would be in
25 Models 1 and 2. The seven advisory or the seven management
26 bodies would relate to whatever Flyway Councils the issues
27 happen to be related to so it's a case by case basis.

28

29 In the case of Model 4, we probably would have --
30 this one's shown on Page 23 of the red book. The Northern
31 Management body would probably send a representative to the
32 Central Flyway Council. The Western Management body would
33 probably send a representative to the Pacific Flyway
34 Council. And the Southern Management body would send a
35 representative on a case by case basis to whatever Flyway
36 Council seemed appropriate. Once again, the same partners
37 would apply, the same funding agreements would apply as in
38 Models 1 and 3. And the recommendations would go directly
39 to Flyway Councils and the regulations committee as in the
40 case of the others.

41

42 I really have gone over some of this stuff very
43 quickly, you may have some questions or some concerns that
44 you'd like to ask me about. Again, we really encourage
45 your comments. If you don't find any of these four models
46 to be acceptable, you could certainly submit a different
47 model or you can use combinations of what is in here. It's
48 a matter of what would work for you. I really thank you
49 for your time to go over this.

50

00197

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Bob, are you looking
2 for directions at this time?

3
4 MR. STEVENS: This would be pretty much up
5 to you, whether you wanted to do it at this time or at a
6 later time. One of the things is if you decide that you
7 would like to make comments as a Council, which I would
8 certainly like to see you do but that's up to you, this is
9 probably the time to do it since the comment period ends
10 the end of October.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, Eastern
15 Interior did take action on this and they supported Model 2
16 and Gerald could explain. They discussed it at quite a bit
17 of length. So I just wanted to inform you of that. I
18 don't know what other regions have done, Ida may know,
19 she's attended several other meetings where
20 Kodiak/Aleutians and a couple others have positioned
21 themselves. It's not to influence you, it's just to tell
22 you what other regions have done.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, it would be good
25 information for our Council. Ida.

26
27 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff
28 Committee member. The Kodiak/Aleutian Council chose the
29 combination of number 2 and number 3. They wanted the
30 regional benefits of the third solution but they wanted
31 their regional advisory council to be the party that made
32 those decisions as opposed to their regional non-profit.
33 And Eastern Interior, I'm sure Gerald can address but they
34 favored number 2 because they said their regional council
35 was already informed about the subsistence uses there which
36 included the taking of migratory birds.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Vince.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just was
41 informed that Seward Penn, they also supported number 2,
42 which is the Regional Council model. But again, that's
43 just to give you data points of what others are seeing this
44 as.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any comments from
47 the Council? Yes, Orville.

48
49 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, Orville Hunting,
50 refuge information technician from Huslia. We supported

00198

1 Model 3 because it -- I didn't really care about the
2 bureaucracy or the money, I just wanted to have the best
3 model available that would work best for what we needed. A
4 lot of our geese don't fly into those other zones, they
5 only either come in the Koyukuk River or they go to
6 Kotzebue so that's why we picked that model.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thanks, Orville. Any other
9 comments from the Council? Do you have one Gerald
10 Nicholia.

11
12 MR. NICHOLIA: Why we choose Model 3 [sic]
13 is just pretty much what Ida said. But we know our region,
14 the Eastern Interior and we're pretty much -- all our
15 members are pretty much dedicated to what we do. And to
16 reinvent the wheel again will just be more hassle and more
17 struggle for all the agencies and people that's already
18 committed. And you hardly do find committed people that do
19 this much on a voluntary basis.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: For the record he was talking
22 about Model 2, the regional council one, he said three but
23 he described two.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. What's the wishes of
26 the Western Interior Subsistence Council, do you want to
27 act now or do you want to go ahead and delay it for the
28 time being?

29
30 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, Jack.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: I feel that waterfowl are
35 very important subsistence resource, whether they're
36 recognized by the Federal Board or how the process goes. I
37 feel that I agree with Gerald that the selection process
38 for representation for the councils is a very time
39 consuming process and to get the kind of people that are
40 dedicated to attend meetings and stuff is noteworthy. So I
41 make a motion to adopt Model 2.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: The concept of Model 2.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: The concept of Model 2.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: With possible further
48 amendments and changes, is that.....

49
50 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

00199

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion on the
2 floor to adopt the concept of Model 2 with possible
3 amendments and changes, I think that would be appropriate
4 at this time. It has been seconded by Micky. Do we have
5 any further discussion?
6

7 MR. COLLINS: If they want reasons I think
8 we should state some. I think that the fact that we're
9 already involved in subsistence and to have somebody else
10 talking about waterfowl when we're not, how would we relate
11 to that group; that it's better to be directly involved.
12 So I would favor two.
13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.
15

16 MR. MORGAN: I'm in favor of two, too.
17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any more comments
19 or questions on the motion to adopt the concept of Model 2?
20

21 MR. STICKMAN: Call for the question.
22

23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called
24 for. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying
25 aye.
26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
30

31 (No opposing votes)
32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: A little bit more work load.
34 Thank you, Bob Stevens.
35

36 MR. STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I
37 appreciate that.
38

39 MR. MATHEWS: I need to make an
40 announcement but don't go running for it, though. Carl
41 Morgan and Angie Morgan brought over moose soup for the
42 sandwiches when they arrive and so I wanted people to know
43 that so I can get out of town, too. But anyways, they have
44 soup and that. The sandwiches, Pete went to get, so there
45 may have been some delay on that.
46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Again,
48 before I go any further, it's hindsight, I would like to
49 express my thanks and maybe thanks from the Western
50 Interior Regional Subsistence Council, thank you to Aniak

00200

1 for hosting our meeting. And thank you, Carl and Angie for
2 turning on the heat this morning. Thanks. Thanks for our
3 lunch.

4

5 But before we go to lunch, yeah, Nowitna Wildlife
6 Refuge. They also have a 3:00 o'clock flight.

7

8 MS. ROBERTS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman
9 and Council. Joanna Roberts with the Koyukuk/Nowitna and
10 Northern Innoko National Wildlife Refuges. I'm the
11 subsistence coordinator and I'm accompanied here by Orville
12 Huntington, our refuge information technician today.

13

14 I have a number of items that I would like to
15 discuss with you today, and the first of those is the law
16 enforcement efforts that were conducted on the Koyukuk and
17 Nowitna and Northern Innoko Refuges during the moose
18 hunting season this year. The refuge brought two U.S. Fish
19 and Wildlife Service special agents up from the Lower 48.
20 And those two individuals worked on the Koyukuk River from
21 September 2nd through the 17th, and their primary focus was
22 on illegal guiding and transporting. These two officers
23 before they left indicated that they had collected a
24 significant amount of good information on illegal
25 operations in the Koyukuk and their investigations are
26 ongoing and we're not yet privy to that information. They
27 did indicate that they believed several arrests would be
28 made as a result of the information that they collected.

29

30 Those special agents also spent some time in Huslia
31 and they were very well received there and thanked for
32 their efforts.

33

34 Our Deputy Refuge Manager, Jim Goode, who is a
35 refuge officer spent three days flying over the Innoko
36 National Wildlife Refuge and he was primarily looking for
37 aircraft and hunters on the refuge. And he indicated that
38 in the entire three days that he spent flying over that
39 refuge they observed no aircraft and they saw no more than
40 five groups of hunters. He believes that this was probably
41 due to the lower water this year and thus, inaccessibility
42 into the refuge. He also said that they would have
43 conducted more flights and would have landed had their been
44 more hunters present.

45

46 Jim Goode also spent two days flying over the
47 Nowitna Refuge and making hunter contacts. He stopped and
48 checked one of the local guides main camps and he checked
49 several groups down stream. One of those hunters mentioned
50 that this was the first time that he'd been checked over 30

00201

1 years so he was surprised to see law enforcement there.
2 Jim also observed five or six camps on the upper end of the
3 refuge but he couldn't land due to the shallow water there.
4

5 I would also like to mention that Brett Gibbons
6 with the Alaska State Fish and Game Department put a
7 considerable effort into law enforcement operations on the
8 Koyukuk River this year. And I believe Randy Rogers
9 probably has the results of his investigations with him.
10 But at one of the meetings that we attended in Huslia, I
11 believe it was stated that he made -- that 24 citations
12 resulted from his operations this year.
13

14 We are going to be doing moose surveys in our trend
15 count areas this year. And the information that I passed
16 out to you, it is indicated which of those trend count
17 areas are of the highest priority to us. It does look like
18 we'll have two planes and two pilots available this year so
19 weather permitting we should be able to get a lot done. I
20 believe the highest priority in the Koyukuk National
21 Wildlife Refuge and Orville, correct me if I'm wrong, I
22 believe the highest areas of priority are the Dulbi River
23 Mouth and the Dulbi Slough due to the amount of hunting
24 pressure we know was present there this year. On the
25 northern Innoko Refuge Pilot Mountain Slough is our highest
26 priority this year. And on the Nowitna National Wildlife
27 Refuge, both the Nowitna River mouth and the
28 Salotna/Nowitna (ph) confluence are our high priority
29 areas.
30

31 The next topic I'm going to mention is the Nowitna
32 moose hunter check station which we did operate again this
33 year. We had a total of 155 hunters check in and 45 moose
34 were harvested. The number of local hunters, the number of
35 hunters from the Fairbanks area and the number of non-
36 residents was very similar to the numbers recorded in
37 recent years. However, the number of non-local residents
38 from the Anchorage, Wasilla and Kenai Peninsula area did
39 increase considerably. I believe that some of this is
40 spill over from the Koyukuk River. Some people indicated
41 that they were there because of congestion problems in the
42 Koyukuk area. Other people indicated that they had already
43 hunted on the Koyukuk early in the season and they weren't
44 successful there and so they were trying the Nowitna on
45 their way home. And I also had a number of folks mention
46 that there was severe winter kill on the Kenai Peninsula
47 last year which was causing them to look for new places to
48 hunt this year.
49

50 We also had a volunteer who lives in Ruby and works

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1 for the tribal council who helped out at the check station
2 for several days this year. And he did mention that the
3 reaction in Ruby was generally negative when he told them
4 that he was going to go out and help us. But he indicated
5 that when he went back to the tribal council and gave his
6 report, he had a lot of good questions from the people and
7 that it became a much more positive thing that he had
8 helped us out. And he believes that the improved
9 communications are going to be beneficial in the Ruby area.
10 He also indicated that the main concern in Ruby right now
11 is the increased number of hunters on the river.

12
13 I also spent four days this year working at Ella's
14 Cabin on the Koyukuk and this is the first time that the
15 Fish and Wildlife Service has been asked to participate in
16 recent years and we very much appreciate being included in
17 that effort with the State this year. The cooperation
18 between the State Fish and Game and the Refuge is excellent
19 right now. I gained considerable insight into the amount
20 of hunting present that is present on the Koyukuk and we,
21 too, would like to see additional law enforcement efforts
22 made next year.

23
24 We have a new biologist on our staff, Guy Hughes.
25 And part of his job in the next several years is going to
26 be to conduct cooperative moose habitat studies with the
27 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. And the main focus of
28 this study -- on the Koyukuk Refuge, is going to be
29 detecting evidence of over browsing in the Three Day Slough
30 area so that's what we've got going on for habitat
31 projects.

32
33 Orville Huntington is now working out of Huslia.
34 He is our refuge information technician there. And he has
35 been conducting a wolf harvest survey for the '98/99
36 season. He, I believe, is still gathering some reports but
37 that information should be compiled this winter and
38 available at the next meeting.

39
40 And the final thing that I would like to talk about
41 today has to do with hunting regulations. And at the very
42 least, the Refuge would like to see the State and Federal
43 regulations in alignment in 2(D). As they read now, the
44 State regulations allow one bull to be harvested from
45 September 5th to the 20th, but the Federal regulations
46 allow for any moose outside of the Koyukuk controlled use
47 area in that unit to be harvested from September 1st
48 through the 25th. We would like to see the cow harvest
49 stopped in that unit. The cow harvest was initiated as a
50 temporary measure used to reduce the population and hence

00203

1 over browsing that was occurring in the drainage at that
2 time. Our biologists now feel that the over browsing issue
3 has been resolved and it's time to reduce the cow harvest
4 in that unit.

5
6 And I would be happy to answer any questions that
7 you want.

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: That's for the fall hunt, the
14 September?

15
16 MS. ROBERTS: That's for the fall hunt. We
17 don't propose any change to the winter hunt.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

20
21 MR. COLLINS: On the harvest there, the 45
22 moose on the Nowitna, what was the local success rate
23 versus non-local, was there any difference for those local
24 hunters? Were they going out and getting what they needed?

25
26 MS. ROBERTS: I did not have anybody
27 indicate to me that they did not get what they needed but I
28 do not have any official report on that.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: So you don't know who
31 harvested the 45?

32
33 MS. ROBERTS: I do know who harvested the
34 different percentages.

35
36 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay.

37
38 MS. ROBERTS: Yes. The harvest rates from
39 the local villages for 1999 was 13 percent.

40
41 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

42
43 MS. ROBERTS: The harvest rate for the
44 Fairbanks residents was 37 percent. The harvest rate for
45 other Alaskan residents was 28 percent. And the harvest
46 rate for non-residents was 29 percent. So the harvest rate
47 for the local villages was the lowest, however, let's see
48 -- yeah, there were 24 local village hunters and they
49 harvested three moose.

50

00204

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions?
2 Orville, do you have anything to have?

3
4 MR. HUNTINGTON: I was just going to say
5 that I did a lot of patrols on my own while I was there
6 while I was moving during the hunting season so I was on
7 the Koyukuk River quite a bit actually, all the way through
8 the hunting season and like Joanna said, there wa really
9 high pressure. In fact, one trip I took up there, up from
10 Galena to Huslia, there was no tracks in the mouth of the
11 Koyukuk River all the way up to the corporation border,
12 there was just too many hunters in there. And I talked to
13 a lot of local people and a lot of local people didn't get
14 their moose this year out of Galena. And I don't know
15 about Koyukuk because I only stopped in Koyukuk one night
16 and it was too late to talk to anybody.

17
18 But I did a total of eight patrols below Huslia --
19 or a total of eight patrols out of Huslia, five below
20 Huslia, two north of Huslia and one up Huslia River, and I
21 only ran into one set of hunters about six miles below
22 Huslia that violated the corporate policy. Because Glenn
23 Stout had done such a good job and Joanna and all that at
24 the check station, of telling them where not to go so when
25 I got up there I was pretty pleased to see that they were
26 not on corporation land except for that one set of hunters.
27 And two of them were really working with us and one was an
28 older guy that I had to argue with for awhile until he knew
29 who I was and I was on the board of director for the
30 corporation and then he backed off. But it was a pretty
31 interesting situation.

32
33 Overall, I did have to help Brett a couple times
34 because like Gabe mentioned earlier there were people
35 coming in that we couldn't account for, coming in on
36 aircraft and going out on boats that same day. And I did
37 track one of them down right to the airplane but he got on
38 the plane and left so I called Brett in Galena and he did
39 issue that guy a citation and he confiscated the moose meat
40 and the antlers because they hunted in the registration
41 area without a permit. Anything like that I was -- I was
42 out there quite a bit and there was very little I didn't
43 see while I was out there.

44
45 The wolf harvest survey I'm still working on and
46 I'm actually including the historical part of it, too.
47 While I'm doing those surveys I'm looking back as far as I
48 can. Like one year one of the hunters had 18 wolves and he
49 gave 11 away for a memorial potlatch. See those kind of
50 things aren't going to show up anywhere. In fact, I tried

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1 to look at Pete's data from when Pete was working at the
2 Refuge and I couldn't use any of it. It just didn't jive.
3 It didn't -- mine was too comprehensive compared to that
4 survey where people were not communicating like they are
5 now. They're very supportive of the Refuge now. When I'm
6 out there I get a lot of comments and as soon as I get them
7 I write them down and I let everybody know what's going on.
8 It's been pretty good. I'm really happy to be back in
9 Huslia although I've only been there one day in the past
10 month. So it's nice to be home and hear all the complaints
11 and try to do something about it.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville. Do we
14 have any questions? Go ahead Gerald.

15
16 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I was one of those
17 hunters, I was number 151 up in the Nowitna, and I remember
18 telling her, they let ladies in this country. But I went
19 about 60 or 70 miles up the Nowitna without seeing a moose
20 or anything but I think they were just moving that time. I
21 did a lot of traveling around the time I had and I was just
22 surprised to see her out there.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any questions?
25 Benedict first and then Henry.

26
27 MR. JONES: Yeah, is there any possible way
28 for Fish and Wildlife and the State to have a trend count
29 as early as possible instead of waiting to November when
30 the daylight gets shorter and the weather has problems?

31
32 MS. ROBERTS: What is important when we do
33 our trend count surveys is that snow be present so that the
34 moose are sightable. The sightability of the moose go way
35 down if there's not enough snow but we're ready to go. I
36 believe the maps are all made up and as soon as we have
37 enough snow we'll be out there. We're hoping to have a
38 very good survey year.

39
40 MR. JONES: I think there is significant
41 snow right now to spot them.

42
43 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, that's exactly the
44 point I was making to Mike the other day. A lot of times
45 you wait too long to get into that normal period when
46 you're counting them and the weather gets bad so what I've
47 been asking Mike to do is we'll get started a little
48 earlier this year. Because that was what I got from the
49 local people when I kept asking them questions, they said,
50 you know, you guys ought to get out there early while

00206

1 there's enough daylight and you can count more, you know,
2 you can see them better. And if we had the snow, it -- and
3 it looks like we're getting snow this year, that should
4 happen. I know Henry had some questions about his area,
5 too, but I'm not sure how we can help him there. Maybe
6 during the Koyukuk Moose Hunter Working Group discussion we
7 can address some of Henry's concerns because he's the one
8 that invited me down here, that's why I'm here.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have more?

11
12 MR. JONES: Another thing I'm really
13 concerned about is the calf survival during the winter.
14 This is really important for our management -- Koyukuk
15 River moose management because if the calf keep going down
16 like they say, the predators, mortality it's going to
17 affect our moose population.

18
19 MR. DEACON: That wolf report, what you
20 did, that's really good information for me for the area.
21 And you know, how much moose does this pack get during the
22 winter is another question we need to know? You know you
23 did a good job here.

24
25 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, the one thing about
26 Benedict saying about that predator problem we have there.
27 In addition to that I think a lot of our calves are just
28 really being hit hard because what happened in the past few
29 years is we didn't get the high water like we used to get.
30 And I notice it going up and down the river in the spring
31 that the ice didn't get up there and take down some of that
32 willow so there was no fresh willow and then back there
33 where the moose used to go with their calves on those
34 little islands and hide out from the bears, the water was
35 too low, so the bears were just tracking them. And that's
36 -- that was a big problem the past two years I've noticed
37 up around Three Day Slough area, where we have data on
38 moose calf mortality.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky, you had a question?

41
42 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, it seemed like, you
43 know, from looking through the information year after year,
44 it seems like you keep counting the same high density area.
45 What I see out there in the Kaiyuh Flats is, I don't think --
46 if you look at the overall big picture it's not real. I
47 mean you keep counting the same area over and over, you
48 know.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you want to comment?

00207

1 Kanuti will probably be asked that same question so I hope
2 you're prepared. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. HUNTINGTON: I think that's a good
5 point we do -- I think we over -- we're overestimating by
6 keeping on counting those high density areas like Micky
7 said. The reason is is those trend count areas were set up
8 a long time ago when there was a lot of moose, and those
9 areas are right in the high density river which is mostly
10 corporation land, I believe, around Nulato. And when I
11 presented, I don't know, I think it was last October or
12 something at this meeting, it was at the end of the meeting
13 and most of the people left already, but what happened was
14 almost all the moose were on Gona (ph) U-land. I looked at
15 the census data on the stratification and it looked just
16 like they were all along the river. And I thought then and
17 I told Mike that it wasn't a good idea to keep counting
18 that one area every year, we weren't proving anything. In
19 fact, we're discounting what people are saying.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further comments or
22 questions for Koyukuk/Nowitna? Jack.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: Well, MR. Chairman, I would
25 like to commend the Koyukuk/Nowitna for their enforcement
26 effort this year bringing in special agents and helping to
27 reduce this illegal guiding that's going on in that area.
28 I was also wondering if U.S. Fish and Wildlife is planning
29 on making that proposal for the reduction of the cow season
30 or the cow hunt in the.....

31
32 MS. ROBERTS: I believe Mike would like for
33 us to put a proposal in.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is this Federal Board or the
36 State Board of Game?

37
38 MS. ROBERTS: To the Federal Board.

39
40 MR. HUNTINGTON: And I believe we have to
41 clarify that. I think we wanted to go with the what the
42 Koyukuk Moose Hunter Working Group recommended, which was
43 the elimination in the 830 hunt and to move the other hunt,
44 the subsistence hunts back to the normal 20 to 25th period,
45 which is what was recommended at your guys meeting in
46 Huslia last week, I believe. I wasn't there but that's the
47 way I understood it to come out.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any other questions? Vince.

50

00208

1 MR. MATHEWS: It might be a good time to
2 take a break before the soup gets cold. Make it a short
3 one and then come back and then we can get people up.
4 There is food leftover from yesterday's lunches up there --
5 sandwiches without mayonnaise, I'll bring it the next time.
6 But anyway.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we'll go ahead and call
9 a break and let's start with Randy Rogers at 1:00 please,
10 if at all possible.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: While we're waiting, I'd
17 like to thank Carl and Angie Morgan for delicious soup,
18 strips and crackers they provided for lunch. It was a nice
19 hot lunch for a change. And I'd also like to thank Vince
20 for everything he's been trying to do, coordinating this
21 meeting and trying to feed us at the same time. Thanks.

22
23 I'd like to call this meeting back to order it is
24 now 1:18. And call Randy Rogers up to the hot seat. We
25 also have Orville Huntington, Nowitna/Koyukuk Wildlife
26 Refuge. I see Joanna's still here, they're all catching
27 the 3:00 o'clock flight. And during this discussion we'll
28 also recognize Gabe Sam if he wants to be because we asked
29 him to defer some of his comments for this presentation.

30
31 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can
32 you hear me okay?

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: A little louder.

35
36 MR. ROGERS: I can't tell you if it's
37 coming through or not.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Loud and clear.

40
41 MR. ROGERS: Okay, I really appreciate the
42 Western Interior Council, in the interest you've shown in
43 this whole issue of Koyukuk River Moose Management. Some
44 of you have heard a little overview of where we are with
45 the plan so I'll try to keep this short to allow time for
46 discussion. I also want to really recognize the role that
47 this Council played in getting this planning effort going.
48 The resolutions that were passed by this body in Galena
49 last spring really is what got the whole process moving and
50 got us to the point where hopefully we're making some

00209

1 progress that will make a real difference to the people out
2 there along the Koyukuk River that depend on the moose.

3
4 Following the resolutions that were passed by this
5 committee last spring in Galena, the Board of Game followed
6 that up with a letter to the local advisory committees
7 supporting the process and encouraging them to participate.
8 Eventually the two committees, the Koyukuk River Advisory
9 Committee, the middle Yukon Advisory Committee made their
10 nominations to the Koyukuk River Moose Hunter's Working
11 Group and the process got underway. The group includes
12 Benedict Jones from Koyukuk, who's the official Council
13 representative, Micky Stickman from Nulato, Royce
14 Perington, Orville Huntington and Rudy Summer from the
15 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee. The group includes
16 Gilbert Huntington as a representative for the commercial
17 guiding interests and has representatives from the
18 Fairbanks, Kenai, Anchorage and Matanuska Valley Advisory
19 Committees.

20
21 I'd have to commend the group for the real
22 cooperative effort that they've all put together, and I
23 think part of the real reason it's worked well is that the
24 non-local reps have been really understanding and
25 supportive of the need of local residents have for the
26 moose out there and have recognized the priority for
27 subsistence use. At the same time the group has really
28 wrestled with trying to maintain all the different hunting
29 opportunities for the different interests that are shown
30 within the work group. And of utmost importance, the group
31 has really stressed that whatever harvest is taking place
32 it needs to be based on what the moose resource can sustain
33 and number 1 priority being protection of that moose
34 resource.

35
36 We've had several different agencies involved and
37 as the work group was formed, we've kind of described them
38 as technical advisors. But some of these include, Tanana
39 Chief's Conference. Gabe has been to most every meeting.
40 Division of Subsistence, Staff has been very helpful.
41 Koyukuk and Kanuti National Wildlife Refuges have been
42 involved. Gates of the Arctic National Park. Bureau of
43 Land Management. And the Alaska Division of Fish and
44 Wildlife Protection. Fish and Wildlife Service has really
45 been supportive of the group effort and has made it
46 possible for additional members to attend the meetings and,
47 specifically, helped provide funding for Ron Sam and Jack
48 Reakoff to make it to the meetings. And it was really
49 beneficial to have that additional representation there.

50

00210

1 We've had meetings, were conducted, basically two
2 day meetings each time held in May, June, August and then a
3 one day meeting in October following the hunting season.
4 We've tried to keep all the meetings open to the public and
5 give everyone present a chance to be involved and give
6 their input into the working group. We haven't had large
7 crowds so it's generally been possible for everyone present
8 to participate right along with the members of the working
9 group. I really feel that the members, the folks that have
10 committed their time to the working group deserve to be
11 commended for the dedication and hard work they've shown
12 throughout the summer. Everyone has lots of things going
13 on, things to do, and it was not the ideal time to be doing
14 this kind of a planning effort but in order to meet the
15 Board of Game deadline that's what had to take place. The
16 meetings were well attended, people followed through.

17
18 We've tried to keep others informed of the working
19 group progress by sending summaries of each meeting out and
20 we've got a mailing list that's about 200 right now that
21 we're keeping. And on this, we've included you folks and
22 hopefully you've all been getting those, I've been stuffing
23 the envelopes myself so I see your names go by. We've got
24 all the members of the Koyukuk River/middle Yukon Advisory
25 Committee on that mailing list, the Board of Game, village
26 councils, city offices, everyone who's expressed an
27 interest through the planning process. At the same time we
28 still realize that many persons that are concerned with
29 Koyukuk moose management really haven't had a chance to be
30 fully involved. So what we're doing right now is we're
31 offering to conduct public meetings in the different
32 villages affected by this plan, interested advisory
33 committees, et cetera, to try and provide information on
34 what's being proposed right now and give people a chance to
35 tell us what they like and dislike about that.

36
37 I've been working with Micky to coordinate a
38 meeting in Nulato November 3rd and just mention with
39 Benedict that hopefully we can coordinate that one with one
40 in Koyukuk on the 4th of November. We need to work with
41 Ron Pollock and others to set meetings in Allakaket, Hughes
42 and other communities as needed.

43
44 As many of you probably know already, since several
45 of you were there, the preliminary recommendations of the
46 working group were first presented in a joint meeting of
47 the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee and middle Yukon
48 Advisory Committee last week in Huslia. There was some
49 really good discussion of some of the issues involved in
50 the plan. And I think it was a good situation. We were

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1 really happy to have that meeting in Huslia. The issue of
2 commercial guiding is particularly contentious in that
3 town. And I think it was healthy for the community to get
4 a chance to speak out and let people know their thoughts on
5 that issue as well as others.

6
7 Ultimately the two committees voted to support the
8 general direction of the plan. But also they need to have
9 more time to look through some of the particulars in there.
10 So we're hoping that further scrutiny, there can be some
11 comments on some of the specific provisions and what's good
12 in there, what's not so good, what maybe needs to be
13 improved or even what might have got left out. This really
14 is an open draft at this particular point in time.

15
16 And as I mentioned, we're on a very tight time line
17 for this, and ideally we really would have much more time
18 to spread these meetings out and continue working on some
19 of these issues but in order to meet the deadline to get
20 recommendations in to the Board of Game for their March
21 2000 meeting and the Federal Subsistence Board following
22 that we need to keep moving right along.

23
24 We had our meeting in October intentionally to
25 follow this fall hunting season and you guys have all heard
26 about some of what took place this fall. But there was a
27 lot of lessons learned and I think several provisions in
28 the plan were strengthened in this October meeting
29 following the hunting season as a result of those lessons.
30 The Department, for the fall hunting season, did reduce the
31 number of permits available at Ella's Cabin at one time to
32 200 as was recommended by the Western Interior Council in a
33 resolution passed in Galena. Still, despite lowering that
34 cap in the number of permits available at one time, there
35 was a significant increase in the number of hunters from
36 the 1998 season. I believe there was 699 hunters went
37 through the Ella's Cabin check station this year. And with
38 the warm weather and low water limiting access into Three
39 Day Slough not much early movement of moose the harvest
40 rate may have decreased some what but still went up.

41
42 The baseline that the work group has set and is
43 reflected in the plan is to try and hold the number of
44 hunters no higher than the levels that occurred in the 1998
45 season. That already happened in 1999, so obviously that
46 made good reason to really reflect on what was said in that
47 draft of the plan, what was learned in the season and what
48 might need to be changed or strengthened to better deal
49 with it. And I think that I'd have to acknowledge that
50 this one meeting in October was really not even sufficient

00212

1 time to thoroughly explore those issues that had changed
2 from the season and completely think out the different ways
3 of dealing with it. So I really feel that there are some
4 provisions that may need to be further strengthened and
5 that we need to hear from the advisory committees, this
6 Council and the public on what areas do need to be
7 strengthened.

8
9 Officer Brett Gibbons with Fish and Wildlife
10 Protection made a very concerted effort in enforcement this
11 year. I spent a little time at the Ella's Cabin check
12 station myself, he was flying in and out of there,
13 following up things very diligently. As Joanna mentioned
14 before, there was 24 citations issued which included wanton
15 waste, hauling antlers out before the meat, violation of
16 permit conditions and shooting sublegal bulls. A problem
17 we have had and why we don't have a more complete report to
18 present you on the enforcement effort this year is Brett
19 has been so tied up with the legal process in following
20 through with these prosecutions is that he hasn't been able
21 to attend our meetings. But that's an important part of
22 it, you can't just write the tickets you got to follow it
23 through, and I know that there had been at least one group
24 of out of state hunters whose one friend ended up in the
25 Fairbanks Correctional Center. Another note is that the
26 working group had suggested that Officer Gibbons be given a
27 satellite telephone and a radium phone so that complaints
28 could be given to him directly while out in the field. We
29 sent a letter to Fish and Wildlife Protection, the
30 detachment commander, they followed through on that
31 recommendation of the working group and he had that phone
32 available this year.

33
34 The working group at that last October meeting
35 thought the level of enforcement was so improved in the
36 1999 season that they requested that I write a letter to
37 Fish and Wildlife Protection on their behalf to commend
38 them for their effort. We still acknowledge that this is a
39 continuing issue out there and we want to maintain this
40 level of enforcement or increase it as we can. So we're
41 not going to pretend that the job was done but improvement
42 was made.

43
44 As we'll see as we review some of the preliminary
45 recommendations of the working group, I really believe that
46 there are proposals in there that are going to
47 significantly change Koyukuk River moose management. I
48 think many of those changes are really going to be to the
49 benefit of the local subsistence hunters.

50

00213

1 The plan addresses use of moose in a manner which
2 clearly indicates that subsistence use has priority. I
3 mean that's the case under State law even though it isn't
4 the specific rural priority. At the same time, the plan
5 also has the complication of dealing with essentially every
6 Alaska resident is eligible as a subsistence hunter. So
7 when we look at things where we might limit the number of
8 permits that go through the general hunt we need to
9 carefully think about what that might do in terms of
10 pushing people over into the subsistence hunt and what that
11 means in terms of total number of hunters and harvest
12 levels and we need to make sure that we're thinking ahead
13 and picking the right program to get the job done. And the
14 job that the group has agreed upon is, again, trying to
15 keep it at that 1998 level. Again, finally, if the trend
16 in increasing hunters continued or if the moose resource
17 declined then under the State system eventually it could go
18 to a Tier II situation which would benefit the local
19 subsistence users.

20
21 I think we've done a fairly thorough job of going
22 through the biological data, the hunting use data there.
23 Glenn Stout couldn't be here but I think he really deserves
24 to be commended for the effort that he's put forward as a
25 new area biologist to really dig in and get to the bottom
26 of this and provide information requested by the working
27 group. And the working group itself has requested
28 additional information from meeting to meeting which has
29 really helped to flush out the whole issue of the
30 sustainability of the harvest much better than had been
31 done before.

32
33 At this time, though, that the data shows that
34 there is enough moose to provide for subsistence and other
35 hunting opportunities. And so we really need to look with
36 all of the users of the resource at what's the best way of
37 managing that and keeping an eye open to the future where
38 that situation may change and that we may need to go to
39 additional measures to make sure that the folks who locally
40 need that moose have access to it.

41
42 In terms of the process that will continue from
43 here, as I said, we want to have public meetings, get
44 information out and receive input as much as possible right
45 now. We intend to have another meeting of the working
46 group in late November in time to examine all the input
47 that we've received from the public. Figure out what kind
48 of changes need to be made in that plan to better reflect
49 what the public wants to see and make it a more workable
50 functional plan. Decide exactly what proposals need to be

00214

1 generated to the Board of Game, and then those proposals
2 need to be submitted by the December 10th deadline.
3 Following that there'll be additional opportunity to
4 comment on proposals that go into the Board of Game book.
5 We'll continue to work on flushing out the plan. What I've
6 put before you here is kind of a frame work of goals,
7 objectives and actions. It needs to be further flushed out
8 with some of the information on the hunting trends, on the
9 biological situation, what's happening with predation, what
10 are the legal constraints for State management options that
11 we have. That needs to be included in there so the Board
12 of Game and the general public that reads it, you know,
13 understands where these actions are coming from.

14
15 There's a couple of actions in there that involve
16 Legislative proposals. We'll need to coordinate closely
17 with our office in Juneau and Legislative representatives
18 to get this implemented. So there will be numerous
19 opportunities for comment on this yet. And again, we would
20 hope to see this go before the Federal Board following the
21 State Board of Game next spring. And there's one specific
22 proposal in there that actually would require a
23 recommendation from this group and then ultimately action
24 from the Federal Board.

25
26 What I'd like to do is just walk you through a
27 couple of the highlights in the plan real quickly and then
28 open it up for discussion.

29
30 The cover letter, this is slightly different than
31 the version that we passed out in Huslia. And what I did
32 was I prepared this one to send out in the mail to our
33 whole mailing list. So some of the information that was in
34 the preface of that version in Huslia is in this cover
35 letter right now and I tried to highlight a few areas that
36 we really need to get comment on and identify where
37 comments can be sent or who to contact for questions, et
38 cetera. You all will be getting another copy of this in
39 the mail so if we end up with extra copies please share
40 them with someone in your community who has an interest in
41 this and might want to comment themselves.

42
43 The mission that has been agreed upon by the
44 working group is, it's pretty generic and it's something
45 that most anyone should be able to agree to. Protect,
46 maintain and enhance Koyukuk River drainage moose
47 populations and habitats in concert with other components
48 of the ecosystem and provide for fair and equitable human
49 uses of the moose resource.

50

00215

1 And again, fair and equitable, we need to consider,
2 that's a subjective term. But we're constrained by State
3 law. And I will point out that while maybe not ideal in
4 some folks view, State law does have a subsistence
5 priority.

6
7 I've added in the primary issues of concern that
8 were identified by the working group. We had pages and
9 pages of issues identified and I've consolidated them down
10 to this basic list that kind of covered the real main
11 concerns of the folks there. The plan and the group has
12 divided the area into two management zones and it's based
13 primarily on densities of moose and intensity of hunting
14 pressure. So you basically have the lower Koyukuk River,
15 the upper Koyukuk River. A lot of the emphasis of the plan
16 has been placed on the lower Koyukuk River drainage and I
17 think we need to keep in mind the possibility that if we
18 restrict hunters down in the lower river, we may,
19 inadvertently, force more hunting pressure to the upper
20 river. So, personally, I think that the plan could be
21 strengthened just a little bit in that regard by putting in
22 place some provisions to deal with that if it actually
23 happens in the upper river area. This is intended to be a
24 five year plan and we don't want to have some major
25 surprise take place within that five years. Whether it's
26 in the plan or not, though, the Department, and there is an
27 action in here that says, if hunt goes beyond what's the
28 sustainable level, Department will cut off harvest by
29 emergency order.

30
31 To start with, I just want to do a couple goals and
32 objectives here. The number 1 goal, we've integrated the
33 State's new intensive management law in here and tried to
34 tie some of the provisions of the plan the management
35 actions to the intensive management law. So we get into
36 projecting population and harvest objectives and we've
37 broken that down according to the two separate planning
38 areas.

39
40 Goal number 1 is to manage Koyukuk River drainage
41 moose on a sustained yield basis to provide for both
42 hunting and other enjoyment of wildlife in a manner that
43 compliments the wild and remote character of the area and
44 that minimizes disruption of local resident's lifestyles.
45 So you've got a couple of different concepts worked into
46 there. You know, first and foremost is sustained yield
47 basis. But then not least is the concept that -- and the
48 recognition that the level of hunting pressure out there
49 really causes impacts to local residents out there, even if
50 they are getting their moose.

00216

1 The first objective here is relating to acquiring
2 better data and expanding the registration hunt. But for
3 right now I'd like to go to the objectives that deal with
4 hunt management and look on Page 4, the bottom of 4,
5 objective 1.2. The first thing right there it says,
6 maintain a subsistence harvest of moose by Alaska residents
7 sufficient to meet subsistence needs. So that's what comes
8 first and foremost in the priorities of use within this
9 plan.

10
11 Moving on down through that, going to objective 1.3
12 which is towards the top third of Page 6. It says, after
13 ensuring subsistence requirements have been accommodated,
14 provide opportunities for resident and non-resident general
15 hunting of moose while ensuring total harvest is
16 sustainable and within harvest objectives. So we want to
17 continue to provide those other opportunities but that's
18 intentionally put as an objective after the first one of
19 providing subsistence. And really what this comes down to,
20 too, is that's the required allocation procedures under
21 State law that the Board of Game would follow. And this
22 plan would really emphasize that so that there leaves no
23 doubt that that is what the intent is.

24
25 Going on to the other sheet I provided to just
26 highlight a few of the recommendations so you don't have to
27 dig them out of the 13 or so pages of the plan itself. The
28 first one listed there is the idea to expand the area of
29 the general and subsistence registration hunts to the
30 entire Koyukuk controlled use area. So that would
31 basically move it up from right now it's just south of
32 Huslia, that the registration permit starts, it would move
33 that line up to just south of Hughes. We'd get much better
34 data on hunting use areas up there and have a better
35 ability to control hunting numbers.

36
37 We've got the proposal in there which is the one
38 Gabe mentioned earlier, establish a mandatory check station
39 in Huslia to check all moose hunters.

40
41 Next proposal is one that potentially links to the
42 Federal process, too. Modify the season for subsistence
43 registration hunt RM-832 to begin and end five days
44 earlier. The concept behind that, that would give 10 days
45 of time for subsistence hunters to take moose before the
46 general hunt crowd arrives. There are some potential down
47 sides of that like warm weather early in the season so
48 that's something that subsistence users need to consider,
49 what really will work best for them. But if we went
50 forward with that proposal then we would want to make a

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1 proposal to the Federal Board to make those seasons align
2 so that we don't end up in a situation where there's a
3 different hunting season depending on whether you're above
4 or below the ordinary high water line of the river out
5 there.

6
7 We have adopted a recommendation to maintain a
8 distinction between the subsistence and general hunts. And
9 it's been a very touchy issue. This gets into the
10 provisions of the subsistence hunt where there's a
11 requirement to destroy the trophy value of antlers and
12 requiring all meat to remain on the bone and the head to be
13 salvaged. Well, the antler thing gets to be a pretty
14 touchy situation, and there's mixed views on that even
15 among the local residents. At any rate, when it comes to
16 distinguishing between those two hunts and especially when
17 you consider that all Alaska residents are eligible as
18 subsistence hunters, having legitimate means to distinguish
19 those hunts becomes very important. Otherwise people who
20 don't get a general permit who are Alaska residents can
21 automatically just switch over to the subsistence permit
22 and it won't make any difference.

23
24 There's a proposal to eliminate the cow harvest in
25 the general hunt right now. This was proposed by Glenn
26 Stout, the biologist. And there's consideration that
27 depending on how this fall's surveys go, it might be wise
28 to apply that to the subsistence hunt also. I think
29 generally it's safe to say that the group has advocated
30 that conservative approach towards managing the moose out
31 there and we want to err on the side of protecting the
32 moose resource, and recognize that predation from both
33 black bears and wolves is on the increase out there. And
34 we've really been lucky to have good winter for several
35 years and we can't necessarily expect that trend to
36 continue. We need to be ready to deal with it.

37
38 There's a number of provisions in here related to
39 encouraging increase take of predators, brown bears, black
40 bears, wolves. We haven't gotten into outright predator
41 control programs, though, so what we're talking about in
42 the plan as it sits is increasing harvest within the
43 existing management guidelines for those species. And
44 that's easy to put down in black and white and not always
45 so easy to carry through with.

46
47 Right now the proposal is to limit the number of
48 permits in the general hunt to 200 permits. That's the
49 same number that was put in place last year. But the
50 difference being is that if that number is put in place for

00218

1 the larger area that we're talking about now for the
2 registration hunts then that is going to effectively lower
3 the number of permits available, say, at Ella's Cabin by 25
4 percent. I don't -- you know, something on that order.
5 It's going to be significant. And this last year we did
6 have periods where people had to wait there to get a
7 permit. If that provision goes into place we could
8 anticipate a crowd of boats at Ella's Cabin. And that, to
9 me, is not the most desirable management situation but it's
10 going to be up to the hunting public to tell us. The back
11 up provision that we've got in the plan right now is if
12 these initial actions, including limiting the cow harvest,
13 limiting the number of permits in this larger area, if
14 they're not successful in limiting the growth in the number
15 of hunters and harvest levels, then we're going to
16 institute a drawing hunt for this RM-830 general hunt.

17
18 You know, to me, we'll see what the public says, it
19 may be preferable to take your chances in a drawing
20 conducted up front if you want one of those permits rather
21 than go through the time and expense, logistics of taking a
22 boat trip all the way from the Dalton Highway, down the
23 river, up to the check station to find out you can't get in
24 there. And for the commercial operators, I don't how that
25 could be workable at all. If you've got somebody that's
26 flown in from Kentucky and has a limited amount of time,
27 they can't burn their whole trip waiting for a permit at
28 the check station. You know the group has generally wanted
29 to put forward the least intrusive and bureaucratic ways of
30 dealing with the hunt level possible and not go to the more
31 extreme measures of a drawing hunt. But at some point it's
32 just going to end up being more workable to go that way and
33 we want to hear from the public on that.

34
35 A final provision that's listed here and it's not
36 the limit of what's in this plan by any means, but a real
37 key one is we'd like to work with Fish and Wildlife
38 Protection and the Alaska Legislature to develop a revised
39 definition of wanton and waste so there could be more
40 successful of prosecution of cases where meat is being
41 removed from the field but it's getting spoiled before it's
42 eaten. And that's something Fish and Wildlife Protection
43 has proposed in the past, this group would like to support
44 that effort. If we get Legislation going, I think there'd
45 be a lot of folks that would want to join in the effort. I
46 mean that's a state wide issue that's of concern to all
47 hunters.

48
49 There is a provision in there, too, that we'd like
50 to recommend that either through Board action or through

00219

1 the Legislature make it illegal for a person to hire an
2 unregistered guide or hunter. If that occurs, right now
3 you hire someone and you haven't broken a State law. If it
4 was set up such that if you hired a non-registered guide or
5 hunter and you broke a State law, well, that would give us
6 direct enforcement authority over those cases plus the Fish
7 and Wildlife Service in their efforts to track down these
8 illegal guiding operations, that gives them a link so
9 there's a State violation to go along with a Federal
10 violation of transporting game across state lines, which
11 then makes it possible for them to prosecute cases under
12 the Federal Lacey Act. So I think that's a state wide
13 recommendation that could really benefit all hunters, too,
14 and that could go into dealing with the issue and the level
15 of illegal guiding activities taking place out there. The
16 other place where we could significantly get into affecting
17 the level of commercial operations is if we go to a drawing
18 hunt. There would likely be an upper limit set on how many
19 of these permits could go to non-residents. The number
20 kicked around by the working group was 25 to 30 percent.
21 There wasn't agreement on what that number should be. But
22 even if we went to the 30 percent number and if you looked
23 at the past years, you know, how many people came from out
24 of state, the level of commercial operations, you would be
25 looking at a significant cut back in the level of
26 commercial activity out there. Again, there's mixed
27 feelings on that because there's folks in the villages that
28 are deriving an income from that and, you know, if the
29 resource can support that then that's not all bad. But
30 there's mixed views on that and we'd like to maintain the
31 opportunity for the diversity of users as long as the
32 resource can support it. But we need to hear what hunters
33 have to say about how we can best break these issues down.

34
35 So I've run on a little to long here as it is, so
36 I'll cut it off at that and be happy to answer any
37 questions. You know, ultimately, I guess what we'd like to
38 see is a general approval of the direction that we're
39 headed here if you feel that this really is something that
40 might improve the situation for your subsistence interests.
41 But also take the time to scrutinize this very carefully
42 and tell us what needs to be improved or changed. That
43 would be very helpful to the working group when they make
44 their decisions on what to move forward to the Board of
45 Game come December.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Randy. We've
50 been closely monitoring the Koyukuk River Working Group

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1 activities. Jack and I have been in attendance for quite a
2 few if not all the meetings and working sessions that we
3 have held. We sat in as non-voting members and we felt
4 comfortable in that position. Our views, when expressed,
5 were taken and analyzed and questioned. And at this time I
6 still think that this is one of the best working groups
7 that I've seen. The first meeting, because of our guiding
8 interests, it was a little bit confrontational, at least,
9 in eye to eye contact. It never really got verbally
10 confrontational. And after that first meeting we really
11 started covering ground and taking steps forward. With the
12 amount of hunters in both the upper Koyukuk and the lower
13 Koyukuk, we worked with close harmony with the residents of
14 21(B), Nulato, Koyukuk, Galena. And that strengthened our
15 working group.

16
17 I'd still like to thank Randy for getting this
18 working group off the ground. At one time we had the
19 Koyukuk River Co-Moose Management Group [sic], which was
20 supposed to be handled by only residents from the Koyukuk
21 River. That never got off the ground. The funding was
22 never established, couldn't be established. And with our
23 resolution down at Galena Randy found some funding and got
24 this working group together. At that time, Alatna and
25 Allakaket said, yes, Hughes and Huslia didn't want any part
26 of it because of our guiding interests, Nulato/Koyukuk
27 didn't want any part of it because of our guiding
28 interests, but to find funding of this sort for this kind
29 of a working group, we had to have all interests of the
30 state involved. By that participation, we got publicity
31 and for once, well deserved publicity by working together.
32 And more and more people are trying to join our working
33 group now, at least, after one or two meetings we decided
34 to keep it at a working size small enough that we can work
35 things out among ourselves.

36
37 So again, I would like to thank Randy for his
38 presence, which I requested. And go ahead, Vince.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, can I ask Randy
41 a couple of process questions because I know you're going
42 to get into detail here pretty quick?

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, go ahead.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the Board of Game
47 meeting is March 3rd through the what, dates of the Board
48 of Game?

49
50 MR. ROGERS: I don't know the exact dates.

00221

1 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, the first date is March
2 3rd, I believe, and then I think it's the 24th. And the
3 other thing is did I understand you to say that the
4 committees, the Koyukuk River and middle Yukon will meet
5 again to review this in more detail?

6
7 MR. ROGERS: They will have an opportunity
8 to meet before the Board of Game meeting. So it's up to
9 them to decide what kind of detailed comments they'll be
10 able to get to us within the time frame that we need prior
11 to the December 10th deadline. They may comment as a
12 committee or as individuals, but there will be additional
13 comment opportunity this year because the Board of Game
14 cycle is focusing on Interior Alaska. There is funding
15 available for two meetings, which is as you recall from
16 last year and legitimate complaint that was expressed was
17 we'd ask these committees to make decision, which is a very
18 important decision to folks out there and do it by
19 teleconference because we didn't have funding for another
20 meeting. And you know, I can completely sympathize with
21 that concern it was just that was the only thing we could
22 do at the time within the Department. This year there is
23 funding for an additional meeting. I believe the idea will
24 be that they will each meet individually rather than as a
25 joint meeting. But that's probably up to the discretion of
26 the committees.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: The other question I have --
29 what I'm leading up to is to let you know when you want to
30 schedule your next meeting, is where I'm going but I got
31 another step to get there, and I lost it. Is the State
32 looking for an endorsement of this plan by the Federal
33 Subsistence Board or would they like it I suppose is
34 another way of saying it?

35
36 MR. ROGERS: Well, I think the intent all
37 along is that we wanted to have a coordinated planning
38 effort involving every stakeholder in it. And recognizing
39 there's a huge number of agencies involved, both State and
40 Federal, and yes -- to make a short answer, we would like
41 this to be presented to the Federal Board. There may not
42 be much in it that actually requires Federal actions but we
43 would certainly want to keep this Council and the Federal
44 Board well informed and as well as get comments from them
45 on what might be done to improve it. So part of the plan
46 is to carry it through the Federal process and that's
47 somewhat depending on what, you know, the Federal board,
48 itself is to hear about it.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: So where I'm ending up is you

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1 may want to look when you look at you next meeting to meet
2 before the Board of Game which starts on March 3rd. That's
3 all where I'm going. You can make that decision later but
4 I wanted this process laid out before we got into the
5 details. So I appreciate the time given here.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any questions?
8 Ray.

9
10 MR. COLLINS: I've got kind of a related
11 question. Will the working group be writing proposals for
12 the State and for the Federal if something comes out of
13 this or are we going to have to write -- in other words, if
14 the proposals are in then we can react to them, but is the
15 group going to do that as part of their work, write the
16 proposals?

17
18 MR. ROGERS: Well, the way that I envision
19 it is that I will probably end up with the task of drafting
20 proposals. We'll probably work closely with Jim Marcott
21 who's our Board support section person who is most familiar
22 with that to draft the proposals to implement what the
23 working group has requested. And then we could work with
24 Vince to prepare those, as needed, for the Federal process,
25 too.

26
27 You know, in regards to Vince's suggestion about
28 meeting prior to the Board of Game, you know, we've had, as
29 I mentioned, had a very good working group. The folks
30 representing the interests from Fairbanks, Kenai, Anchorage
31 have been very understanding and supportive. After this
32 years hunting season, the representative from Wasilla
33 called me up just saying, hey, after what went on this year
34 we got to go to a drawing hunt, this is ridiculous. You
35 know, it's the best thing if those folks, themselves,
36 advocate these things, rather than perceive that it's the
37 locals trying to do it. But ultimately some of the folks
38 involved with this group may have a difficult time in
39 selling the whole concept to those respective advisory
40 committees. I think it may be a fair thing to say that
41 this plan really does include a major portion of things
42 which would benefit local users and gradually look at
43 cutting out the non-local users. Some people are not going
44 to go along with that and particularly those that have not
45 going through the process to understand the biology, the
46 trends in moose hunting numbers and the details of what's
47 really required by the Board of Game under State law. So
48 you're going to get some people approaching it from a
49 philosophical basis, and I guess the bottom line is I think
50 we need to continue this working together. We've developed

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1 a lot of good communication and understanding. But that
2 we're going to need to look at those folks who do see
3 benefit in this plan are going to need to make sure that
4 the Board of Game hears that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, in following
9 that and Ray's, you know over the years that if you support
10 a change in seasons and that the Board looks at regional
11 council advisory, you know, the council's proposals kind of
12 as recommendations. I suppose I should say it another way.
13 Another way of saying it is parallel proposals from
14 multiple groups wakes up any board that there is support or
15 dissention for some type of activity in an area. So you
16 may want to submit a proposal. I'm not saying you do, you
17 may want to even though the working group may also submit
18 one to the Federal Board. So I know you know that but I
19 just wanted to remind you of that, that if you feel strong
20 enough about it by submitting a proposal you're ready,
21 positioning yourself. And I also have to say to you, and
22 Ray knows this very well, you can submit proposals and
23 withdraw them later if you feel differently later. It's
24 just a remind you on that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I have also reminded
27 both the Koyukuk River Advisory Council and the middle
28 Yukon Advisory Council to go ahead and submit proposals on
29 their own to the State because I think that would carry
30 more weight. Because these advisory councils answer to the
31 State and are funded by the State, what little they are.
32 So we may be looking at three proposals on one issue.

33
34 MR. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy.

37
38 MR. ROGERS: I think that is an excellent
39 idea. But I think we should also be careful to make sure
40 that we have consistency with them. So I would offer that
41 if proposals are being generated from different groups on
42 essentially the same topic to coordinate that so that we
43 ensure that we are giving a consistent message to the Board
44 and not throwing in a little confusion there.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I've seen that happen
47 quite a few times. But I said this before and I'll say
48 this again, this is one of the most receptive boards that
49 I've worked with in a long time, is the State Board of
50 Game, and they will question you, that gets a little

00224

1 touchy. At one time we discussed the idea of who was going
2 to be presenting these proposals and I think that we
3 finally settled on having some member of the Koyukuk River
4 Working Group, that way that will free up Koyukuk River
5 Advisory Council and middle Yukon Advisory Council to have
6 their own spokesman in on presenting their own proposals if
7 they may differ. At that time we were trying to cover all
8 angles, I think.

9
10 Any more questions for -- Orville.

11
12 MR. HUNTINGTON: Where it says work with
13 Fish and Wildlife Protection in Alaska, you guys did that
14 one already, that bottom one?

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

17
18 MR. HUNTINGTON: You guys passed that one
19 earlier, right?

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Who, this Board?

22
23 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, the one on the
24 bottom.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, yeah, we haven't gotten
27 to that part, we didn't finalize it but Carl did volunteer
28 to do some work on that, and Jack Reakoff also drafted a
29 letter to the Department of Law and we will be discussing
30 it under our proposals so we can keep that in line with
31 everything else.

32
33 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I thought that was a
34 better way to do it, the way Carl suggested and I think
35 that may be a better way to do -- if you look on Page 11 of
36 this plan, action item 4.21, three paragraphs down, Page
37 11. It says work with Department of Law but you could
38 actually do it the way Carl said would be better, to get
39 Board of Game, Fish and Wildlife Protection and others to
40 develop regulations and/or Legislation that would make it
41 illegal for a person to hire a guide or transporter who is
42 not properly registered with the State. That might be -- I
43 think Carl's method would be better than what we have here.
44 That's just something I found out yesterday, it's a better
45 way to do what we're trying to do.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Orville. I think
48 you were in attendance at one meeting where we did discuss
49 another proposal to classify air transporters and make them
50 ruled and regulated under the same regulations that guides --

00225

1 registered guides operate under. Do you remember what
2 happened to that issue?

3
4 MR. ROGERS: That one was never moved
5 through the work group, but I do remember it being
6 suggested, and that's certainly something that could be
7 added into the plan if that's what, you know, the public
8 thinks is needed.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: Well, a related one, did you
13 discuss in the group, maybe requiring guides for non-
14 residents because that would fix a lot of this. They would
15 have to have a guide with them and that guide is
16 accountable for their actions plus it could help the local
17 revenue if there's local guides there, they would have more
18 candidates and could make sure then that the meat got back
19 to villages or whatever.

20
21 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, we did discuss that.
22 And there was several folks and they would be primarily the
23 non-local representatives that had friends or family from
24 out of state and they wanted to be able to have the
25 opportunity to bring them up with them on a hunt, and so I
26 think that's pretty well where that one came from but
27 that's not to say that it couldn't be designed in such a
28 way to allow that kind of thing to continue while requiring
29 guides of others.

30
31 MR. COLLINS: I think that's already in the
32 case of sheep and others, you can take somebody, first
33 degree kindred or something like that, isn't there?

34
35 MR. ROGERS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

36
37 MR. COLLINS: A long time ago, back in the
38 territorial days they used to require a guide and then when
39 there was a homesteading going on they exempted that. But
40 I would think that all those non-residents, whom we don't
41 owe the opportunity to hunt necessarily should be required
42 to have a guide so that they're accountable.

43
44 MR. ROGERS: Yep, that's a legitimate point
45 and another thing which could be added. These are all
46 great ideas and if folks on this Council think that those
47 are the directions to go, please write us a note to tell us
48 that and that will be brought back to the attention of the
49 working group and there's a fair likelihood it could get
50 added in.

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1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Orville.

2

3 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, that was one of the
4 things we considered and like Randy said, we couldn't get
5 any support for it. And special agent Corky Roberts was at
6 that meeting and that's how we came up with action item
7 4.2.1 where we would look at getting at the heart of the
8 matter which was getting those illegal guides out of there,
9 and that's the way we decided to go.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Orville, for my
12 clarification when you said, illegal guides, did you take
13 into consideration any of these transporters?

14

15 MR. HUNTINGTON: That was how the
16 discussion started but then we went -- I think that was the
17 main problem was Corky said they couldn't make a case
18 unless they had something like this to work with, the Lacey
19 Act to back them up and so that was why we decided to go
20 this way.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, thank you. Any
23 further questions? David James, Eastern Interior.

24

25 MR. JAMES: Randy, under number 4 item
26 underneath your recommendation change, you mention there
27 was some mixed views by local people on the head to be
28 salvage, what do you mean by that?

29

30 MR. ROGERS: Which exact section are you
31 looking at?

32

33 MS. HILDEBRAND: Recommendations.

34

35 MR. JAMES: In recommendations, number 4.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Your one sheet item, Randy.

38

39 MR. ROGERS: Oh, that one. I was
40 mentioning specifically that at the check station this
41 year, and this is a policy that has always been in place
42 but there's been a turnover in some of the staff, the area
43 biologists out there, so the way that has implemented has
44 changed over the years. And we were concerned that it may
45 not be consistent with the original intent of the Board of
46 Game.

47

48 When the Board of Game made the distinguishing
49 features between the hunt they looked at what is customary
50 and traditional and said, well, antlers are not a

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1 traditional part for subsistence hunters so that was one of
2 the main criteria put in place there. This year at the
3 check station Glenn had observed and reported in Huslia
4 that there was a substantial number of the local hunters
5 using the subsistence permit that were not happy at all
6 when the antlers got cut. And there had been mixed views
7 with both local and non-locals presented to the working
8 group itself. And some view cutting the antlers and
9 requiring them to be destroyed as a form of wanton and
10 waste in and of itself. So that was all I was trying to
11 point out is that some local folks like antlers. I would
12 by no means say that they are trophy hunters but the antler
13 is another part of the animal that could be taken back and
14 used and, you know, arguably should not be wasted.

15
16 There was a recommendation at one point because of
17 that to have the Department take the antlers and then
18 donate them to a non-profit so that, at least, somebody
19 would be getting use out of it, it wouldn't be going to
20 waste. Well, I looked into what, you know, legally the
21 Department would have to do to implement that and we'd end
22 up needing to set up a little mini bureaucracy to make sure
23 that all non-profits had a fair and equal chance to get
24 antlers and benefit from it. And basically, you know,
25 there's a limit to how many resources the Department has to
26 deal with Koyukuk moose management, that maybe that's not
27 the best place to place our resources so we went to more of
28 a simple straightforward cut it, destroy the trophy value,
29 the hunter can then take it with them. You know, several
30 folks -- I mean one person from Nulato -- I was at the
31 check station, I cut a nice big rack, it would have been a
32 trophy for someone from out of state for sure, this person
33 didn't wince at all when it was cut, said it makes
34 absolutely no difference to me, I'm going to sell it by the
35 pound -- when the dealer comes around this winter anyhow.
36 So at any rate, there's differing views on that issue.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, that issue has been
39 brought up in every one of our meetings. And a few times
40 the 50-inch recommendation -- or regulation has been
41 brought up, we haven't come up with any solutions to any of
42 these -- anything that would satisfy everyone anyway. Any
43 more questions for Randy?

44
45 Gabe.

46
47 MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, first of all I.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Use the microphone -- this
50 one.

00228

1 MR. SAM: Mr. Chair, first of all, I would
2 like to thank you for giving Mr. Rogers the time to finish
3 his presentation. I would just like to clarify some things
4 with Mr. Rogers. You said there was 699 hunters up the
5 Koyukuk River, and I believe there was 375 moose harvested
6 and there's a wound/loss ratio of 15 percent, that's the
7 estimate that Glenn gave.

8
9 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, those are pretty close
10 numbers. And I'm not sure those numbers include those that
11 were coming in out of Huslia.

12
13 MR. SAM: Yeah.

14
15 MR. ROGERS: Glenn, hadn't added those in
16 yet.

17
18 MR. SAM: That's because he didn't have the
19 numbers from Mabel's and.....

20
21 MR. ROGERS: Right.

22
23 MR. SAM: You know, when we were there,
24 Benedict and Jack, Samson, you know, was all up there
25 listening to the public testimony the moose is going down a
26 lot and in your report you said that biological science is
27 still there -- is still a sustained yield right now. I
28 just -- until the real numbers come back from this fall's
29 count, I still think I'll have to go along with what the
30 elders are saying up there. I mean you've heard it pretty
31 extensively. You're still feeling the effects of it
32 actually.

33
34 But you know, these transporters and working group,
35 you know, I spoke to you during lunch about still a
36 possibility of -- to be quite honest if the hunter is not
37 going to do anything with the meat, you know, he's going to
38 transport it back wherever it came and he's going to toss
39 it anyway, you know, we should maybe give them an incentive
40 to give the meat to the tribal council, you know, through
41 Tanana Chief's for the elder's nutrition program. That
42 will save them a whole bunch of money of transporting it
43 out of Huslia or by plane, but it will also benefit people
44 that would not get meat anyway. So I still want to
45 reiterate that.

46
47 You know, we're going to have to -- we're going to
48 think of something, you know. I know I've spoken to, not
49 only your superiors but people even in Juneau, about this
50 issue, trying to get somebody to do something about it.

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1 And you know, if need be, like I said in Huslia, we're
2 prepared to take it even further and that's where it's at
3 now.

4
5 And I need to go catch a plane, so if anybody wants
6 to buy raffle tickets for the Doyon Foundation Educational
7 Fund I'm still here. I know I've asked a whole bunch of
8 you but, you know, I'm trying to get a hold of some of that
9 easy money. Uh, Jack.

10
11 MR. REAKOFF: Wolf trapping's not easy
12 money.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Subsistence don't get per
15 diem like Tanana Chief's. Orville.

16
17 MR. HUNTINGTON: If there's any question
18 for me, too, I got to get going, I got to catch the same
19 plane.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, so does Randy and
22 Joanna.

23
24 MR. HUNTINGTON: Whatever you guys, you
25 know, because I tried to be here to answer your questions
26 throughout the day a couple days now.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, again, I requested
29 Orville to be down here for this Koyukuk River presentation
30 but we're running short of time. Go ahead, Vince.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman -- well, two
33 things, but the first one I want to do real quick here is
34 I'm anticipating you're taking action and I hope you take
35 it before Randy gets on the plane, number 1. And then
36 number 2 is I do have a letter here from Darryl Vint that I
37 promised I would pass around to you concerning this agenda
38 item which has already been addressed in the presentations
39 but I did promise him when I called him on that letter.
40 Because you do need to take some kind of action here, I
41 gather, if you so desire and it would be wise to do it
42 before Randy leaves so he can hear it directly.

43
44 MR. HUNTINGTON: Maybe while he's doing
45 that I could speak about -- a little bit about moving that
46 subsistence registration hunt. Remember we decided that it
47 would be easier for those people that wanted to go out
48 early and get their moose before all this hunting pressure
49 was there, that was our justification. And as for those
50 last five days they're going to miss, if they didn't get a

00230

1 moose, really they could go and apply for a general hunt
2 and just keep the antlers. You know, if they really needed
3 a moose and that would be in all -- or is there a cow --
4 there is no cow season under the general hunt?

5

6 MR. ROGERS: There has been but it's
7 proposed to discontinue that.

8

9 MR. HUNTINGTON: Well, anyway, that was one
10 thing so that the opportunity would still be there for
11 those local people to go get a moose on those last five
12 days if they didn't have one, they could go under the
13 general hunt. It would be a smaller bull or whatever.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy, did you have anything
16 further?

17

18 MR. ROGERS: Not really. I was just going
19 to say that I had talked to Gabe about the elder's
20 nutrition program and I don't see any reason why we
21 couldn't work that into the plan. And just in terms of a
22 general comment, I think the intent of the working group is
23 to be conservative with the harvest. And we have harvest
24 objectives which are lower than what could be the maximum
25 sustained yield taking into account wounding loss and some
26 of those. So I really think that we're on pretty common
27 ground right there when it comes down to it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAM: What kind of action were you
30 looking for Vince?

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: I'm not looking for any
33 action. I just thought if you were going to endorse this
34 planning process, I think Randy started off with the word,
35 endorsement of this planning process, and then take time,
36 individually, to look at the details. I think that's what
37 he was looking at. I'm not saying you have to go that way,
38 I'm just saying the opportunity would be now. And then you
39 have to look at submitting a proposal, if you so desire or
40 wait for this other group to submit a proposal to the
41 Federal Board on this change of the beginning dates for the
42 season.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Randy.

45

46 MR. ROGERS: You know, I don't feel that
47 it's necessary, actually, that you take action. You know,
48 it would be nice to have kind of a general indication that
49 we're heading in the right direction now if that's what you
50 feel. But ultimately it's going to be important when some

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1 of this goes to the Board of Game Federal Subsistence
2 Board, you know, maybe the number 1 important thing is to
3 tell us what we need to do to make this a real good plan,
4 then that you will then feel comfortable with soundly
5 supporting when it actually gets to the decision process.
6 But in the meantime, you know, a general indication of okay
7 would be nice but it's not necessary. So it's really up to
8 you folks.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: Well, since we did, by
13 resolution, request this, I think there should be a letter
14 thanking them for getting this process going and asking
15 them to continue to support it through to the end. Because
16 like you say, there's a couple more meetings coming up.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: You know, we requested they
21 do something, they've done something I think we should
22 respond with, at least, a letter saying we like the
23 direction it's going and hope that it will continue
24 through.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

27
28 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

31
32 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to see the moose
33 planning team, if they make season or bag limit changes,
34 that they duplicate those and send those through to the
35 Federal Subsistence process, which are reviewed by this
36 Council and can be acted on from that point. But I'd like --
37 if you produce regulatory change on the State season or
38 bag limit then just automatically submit them to the
39 Federal Board.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Anybody else? I still like
42 Ray's suggestion that.....

43
44 MR. COLLINS: I'll make that a motion.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, I would appreciate
47 that. Go ahead, Ray, do you want to repeat it or do we all
48 understand what the motion is?

49
50 MR. COLLINS: We write a letter to Alaska

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1 Department of Fish and Game thanking them for implementing
2 the planning process and that we're pleased with the
3 direction this far and we hope they'll continue it and see
4 it through to the end, you know, continue the process.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could we CC a copy to State
7 Board of Game since we directed our resolution to them or
8 another letter of thanks to them? Which would you prefer,
9 Ray, do you have any idea? A separate one to the State
10 Board of Game?

11
12 MR. COLLINS: Well, who did we send the
13 resolution to?

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: State Board of Game.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: Well, then the letter should
18 go to them, I guess.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

21
22 MR. COLLINS: With a copy to the
23 Department.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: And ask that this committee
26 be funded or kept in existence?

27
28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

29
30 MR. ROGERS: Yeah, through the decision
31 process. As you recall it was kind of agreed upon this
32 would not be an ongoing body.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

35
36 MR. ROGERS:but for the purpose of
37 this plan but we do want to get to the completion point.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you have anything to
40 add, Mr. David James, wildlife conservation?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: He was just dealing with
43 logistics to get people to the airport so that's all that
44 was going on, there was no concerns or directions or
45 anything like that it was just get the keys to the car.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

48
49 MR. REAKOFF: I second that letter.

50

00233

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, there is a motion on
2 the floor.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Be sent to the same people
5 that the resolution was done, correct.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, then we CC Randy
8 Rogers office?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: He got a copy of it before.
11 So whatever we did with the last one we would do again.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: I think it went to everybody.

16
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion?

19
20 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
23 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

32
33 MR. ROGERS: I guess I better dash.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

36
37 MR. ROGERS: Thank you all very much for
38 your support. And please, don't forget the part of giving
39 us detailed comments on what we need to improve still.
40 That is really important before the next working group
41 meeting.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, the reason we gave you
44 time is we were trying to set up a model so that the rest
45 of the state can follow. We're still looking at the Innoko
46 gas area.

47
48 MR. ROGERS: Right.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: So if we go into intensive

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1 management there, we'll have something in place to fall
2 back on. Thank you, again, Randy. Oh, Jack you had
3 something?

4
5 MR. REAKOFF: When's the next moose hunter
6 planning team meeting?

7
8 MR. ROGERS: It hasn't been set but it
9 needs to be done in time so that proposals are finalized
10 and get in by the December 10th Board of Game deadline.

11
12 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

13
14 MR. ROGERS: So we're looking at after
15 Thanksgiving and probably by December 5th, in that range.

16
17 MR. REAKOFF: Okay.

18
19 MR. ROGERS: Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, to answer that, too,
22 I'm already discussing this with Randy and some KRAC
23 members. Maybe we should bring Randy and Vince into
24 Allakaket to pretty much explain the process that this
25 working group has been going, looking at the goals and
26 objectives and explain what has been done so far and you
27 will be invited.

28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. We're thinning out
32 pretty fast here, I think we got time for everything so if
33 it's okay with everyone, can we take a 10 minute break.

34
35 (Off record)

36
37 (On record)

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'd like to get back to our
40 seats so we can continue and finish off, hopefully. At
41 this time I would like to call the meeting back to order.
42 And I'd like to thank Kanuti Wildlife Refuge for bearing
43 with us and I would like them to go ahead and make their
44 presentation now if possible.

45
46 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 My name is Lisa Saperstein and I'm the wildlife biologist
48 for the Kanuti Refuge and I've been there almost exactly
49 one year. And.....

50

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1 MR. McCLELLAN: And my name is Greg
2 McClellan, I'm the subsistence coordinator for Kanuti
3 National Wildlife Refuge.

4
5 MS. SAPERSTEIN: And I have a brief slide
6 show for you so you can either all watch the slides or take
7 a little nap.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

10
11 MS. SAPERSTEIN: I guess we can get the
12 lights, I don't know how much difference it will make with
13 the windows. Hopefully we'll be able to see a little bit.

14
15 This past summer has been an opportunity for me to
16 get out on the ground on the refuge a little more since
17 it's my first year here and learn a little bit about the
18 terrain and wildlife resources.

19
20 And some of you might not be familiar with where
21 the refuge is, we're north central part of the state, just
22 west of Yukon Flats and the Dalton Highway Corridor, that
23 green blob in the middle. I'm going to start out with some
24 of our activities related to this past moose season.

25
26 We put up five signs informing hunters that they
27 were entering the Kanuti controlled use area and this area
28 is closed to moose hunting on Federal land except for the
29 residents of Game Management Unit 24, Anaktuvuk Pass,
30 Koyukuk and Galena. And this sign is up on the Alatna
31 River, and we also had one on Fish Creek which is where
32 that slide was taken, on the Koyukuk, the South Fork and
33 the Kanuti River. This project was part of a challenge
34 cost share agreement between the refuge, TCC, and the
35 tribal councils of Allakaket, Alatna, Evansville and
36 between Doyon Limited and K-Corp.

37
38 Well, you can't really see that, that's a picture
39 of the Dalton Highway Corridor. And two trips were made up
40 the highway corridor this fall, one by Greg and one by
41 Barry Whitehill, our assistant manager. And that was
42 primarily to talk to different hunters and hand out maps of
43 the controlled use area and I handed out one to each of
44 you. And that map also lists private land, allotments and
45 corporation land. And the map just shows the areas that
46 are accessible from the rivers crossing the Dalton Highway
47 Corridor.

48
49 We also kept an eye out for hunter camps whenever
50 we were on the refuge, flying around, and Barry Whitehill

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1 and our park ranger, Harvey Williams, took a boat trip up
2 the South Fork and Fish Creek, I believe, and down to
3 Allakaket looking for hunter camps and talking to hunters,
4 educating them about the controlled use area and also about
5 private lands within the refuge.

6
7 Anything you want to add about your trip up the
8 Dalton Highway?

9
10 MR. McCLELLAN: (Nods negatively)

11
12 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Okay, we'll be open for
13 questions afterwards. This is for our biological program.
14 We had planned a moose census of the refuge last year and
15 that was cancelled due to lack of snow so we are planning
16 one this year and basically we are waiting for proper
17 amount of snowfall prior to doing the census.

18
19 In early March we flew 16 line transects in four
20 river corridors to document winter moose locations. And I
21 want to stress that the purpose of this survey is to
22 document habitat and not population numbers. And you have
23 a handout showing the location of the moose relative to
24 fire history. And that's just one of the products that
25 might come out of this project. It's going to help us
26 determine where to focus our efforts on habitat work
27 related to moose brows.

28
29 In association with this project we erected six
30 snow markers on the refuge and those have been checked
31 every month. And in your booklet you have a summary of the
32 snow depths for the snow markers last winter. The snow
33 data and the moose locations will be used in various ways
34 in conjunction with the habitat map that is being made from
35 satellite imagery and is in the process of being developed.

36
37 That's a picture of a wolf in a den. And we did
38 plan an aerial wolf census this past spring but again that
39 was cancelled due to lack of snow. We need enough snow to
40 cover the older wolf tracks and also the tracks of other
41 animals such as these caribou that you can't see that
42 complicate the tracking effort. And big thanks to people
43 in Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles and Evansville who provided
44 information about packs that helped us stratify the refuge
45 prior to the planned census. We did get out for one day
46 and did some tracking and the weather closed in and shut us
47 down, it was already pretty late in the season by then. We
48 also radio tracked collared packs every two weeks, and that
49 will keep going until the collars or the animals die.

50

1 For waterfowl, Harvey Williams is collecting data
2 for subsistence waterfowl surveys in Allakaket, Alatna,
3 Bettles, and Evansville and some of you might be involved
4 in that project. I don't have any data on that yet, I
5 don't think he's collected all the cards back for this
6 year. And we conducted July brood surveys targeting geese
7 on portions of the Kanuti and Kanuti/Kilolitna rivers, and
8 you have some preliminary data in your book about that.
9 This years results for white fronts on the Kanuti was
10 similar to last years. We also conducted an early June
11 survey of the upper Kanuti River from the Haul Road down to
12 Kanuti Lake, and that was primarily to look for harlequin
13 ducks, which are declining in our species of concern
14 nationwide. I'd also like to stress that these river
15 surveys are a really good way to document all other types
16 of wildlife as well as the target species such as the ducks
17 and geese that we're looking at.

18
19 We collected aquatic vertebrates from five lakes in
20 the Kanuti River drainage and this included Taiholman, Old
21 Dummy and Mud Lake as well as two others. And this project
22 will provide some baseline information about food sources
23 for waterfowl. And we've contracted with a person to do
24 this for us and identify the invertebrates.

25
26 We tried to band white-fronted geese in July and
27 when we did a preliminary flight there was several hundred
28 on Lake Todatonten, but by the time we got around to
29 banding and the banders came up they didn't have enough
30 geese on the lake to justify a banding effort so possibly
31 next year we'll get more bands on those geese.

32
33 For fire management, we had five wild fires within
34 the refuge in 1999, all in July. Three were on Native
35 owned land they burned 240, 120 and one acre, and these
36 three fires were all actively fought and put out. Two
37 additional fires burned on refuge owned land and they
38 burned 130 and 30 acres, neither was actively fought and
39 both went out naturally.

40
41 We have a number of fire related projects going on
42 on the refuge. We trap small mammals in a 1990 burn just
43 north of Kanuti Lake and we've been trapping this area
44 since 1991 looking how the species composition and numbers
45 change over time. We caught a total of 285 voles, shrews,
46 and lemmings and 125 of these were yellow-cheeked voles,
47 which are pictured in the slide here. And these are
48 significant because some of these can weigh up to a quarter
49 pound which is a pretty hefty meal if you're a marten or an
50 owl. And these really started showing up in large numbers

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1 in 1997, seven years after the fire initially burned.

2

3 I'd just like to mention that Jessie and Michelle
4 Reakoff assisted with this project through an internship
5 program with TCC. And what this was all about was a Fish
6 and Wildlife Service along with some other agencies
7 sponsored Earthquest Science Camp every other year and it's
8 for rural students. And then during the following year we
9 try to help provide work experience for the previous
10 summer's camp participants. In addition to helping us with
11 the small mammal project they did quite a bit of work with
12 Gates of the Arctic National Park, and they helped Fish and
13 Wildlife with eider research on the North Slope, at least
14 Michelle worked on that one. This year they will be doing
15 another Earthquest Science Camp and I'm not sure you the
16 application process goes but if you know any kids that
17 might be interested in your communities, you might want to
18 contact Barry Whitehill to find out more information about
19 it. Another fire-related project is vegetation plots and
20 we looked at two of these near the small mammal trapping
21 grids. And these have also been looked at, not every year
22 since 1991 but I think a total of, this is probably the
23 sixth year we've looked at them. And the data collected
24 include plant cover, number of tree seedlings, number of
25 tall shrubs and fuels. And this slide was taken in 1991
26 one year after the fire, and if you could see it, you'd see
27 what it looked like this year. And this is part of our --
28 one of our projects looking to see how fire -- how things
29 regenerate after the fire in different areas. We have
30 quite a number of these transects spread out through the
31 refuge in different types of habitats to look at their
32 recovery and this year we just looked at two of them.

33

34 We've also started looking at different age forest
35 stands to better understand the natural fire cycle on
36 Kanuti as well as vegetative regrowth. And we determined
37 stand age from fire history maps and also by cutting down
38 trees and counting the annual growth rings. And on some of
39 these if they're scarred by previous fires and lived
40 through it you can actually count back to fires and find
41 out how often fires naturally occur in the area.

42

43 For fisheries, the refuge participated in another
44 challenge cost share agreement with TCC and the tribal
45 councils of Allakaket and Alatna and K-Corp to operate a
46 fish counting tower on Hinshaw Creek. TCC has the lead on
47 this project and I don't have any data from that at this
48 point in time.

49

50 We also do a number of non-game bird projects on

00239

1 the refuge and these include breeding bird surveys in June
2 during which we also look at habitat relationships and a
3 rapture survey of the Kanuti River Canyon in July, mostly
4 great-horned owls and there is one in that slide which,
5 again, you can't see.

6
7 I'd also like to mention that stemming from last
8 years meeting here and some of the concerns we heard about
9 red colored water and high e-coli counts, we also entered
10 into a cost share project with TCC and the tribal councils
11 of Allakaket and Alatna, and also I think K-Crop looking at
12 water quality on the Koyukuk River. And the TCC Division
13 of Public Health and has the lead on this, and all I know
14 at this point is that on the last sampling effort they
15 showed normal bacterial loads for river water in front of
16 the villages. And Ron might know a little more about that
17 due to his work with the water plant and they will provide
18 a full report of that. There were two sampling efforts,
19 one earlier in the season and then one mid- to late
20 September.

21
22 And I think that's all I have at this point. Greg.

23
24 MR. McCLELLAN: We forgot to mention but on
25 Tab E of your book is a write up of several of the topics
26 that Lisa talked about in her slide show so if you want to
27 quickly look through them and if there's any questions on
28 them we'd be happy to try to answer.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: What tab was that?

31
32 MR. McCLELLAN: Tab E as in echo.

33
34 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Yeah, sorry, I should have
35 mentioned that beforehand. It pretty much covers what I
36 just said, a few more numbers thrown in.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we have any -- yeah,
39 Vince.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: We've been asking agencies to
42 do that, the write ups. And Greg has been fostering that
43 so it's made life easier to get these single page reports
44 or couple page reports so you can look at them ahead of
45 time or talk from them. So this is following up on your
46 request and a couple other regional council requests that
47 they have kind of a bulleted or abbreviated summary of
48 what's there so you can use that at the meeting and prepare
49 for the meeting and then when you go back home if someone
50 asks, what's going on at X agency you have a synopsis here

00240

1 to share with others.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

4
5 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank
6 the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge for -- they had that work
7 program and my kids worked on those projects and they
8 worked quite a bit about how agencies work and how field
9 work is performed. And I think it's good for village young
10 people to learn how these agencies work and become involved
11 and possibly work into, like Orville's done, worked into
12 become part of the management system in Alaska. So I want
13 to say thank you to Kanuti and the National Park Service
14 for the programs that they have for these young people.
15 And also I think that they have a lot of good projects
16 going on which from the baseline data on up it's very
17 instrumental in the managements of these various resources
18 that we have.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Samson.

21
22 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman, Lisa, in your
23 travels in the Kanuti Flats, do you notice that the water
24 table is going up or down in lakes?

25
26 MS. SAPERSTEIN: This was my first year
27 here so I really don't have anything to compare it to. I
28 heard people say that the water was pretty low this year.
29 As far as waters in the lakes, I didn't really notice
30 anything. I know that we did the aquatic invertebrate
31 sampling. Mud Lake looked like it had been flooded, there
32 was water into the willows and dead willows, so it looked
33 like they had water for quite a while and whether that was
34 normal or not, I don't know. But there wasn't anybody with
35 us at that time who had been on the refuge any longer than
36 I had so I couldn't ask.

37
38 Is that something that you've noticed over time?

39
40 MR. HENRY: Yeah. One of the things I
41 notice, you know, we're losing muskrats and beaver -- the
42 population's going down in muskrat and beaver and some
43 other things. And I was just thinking that it might be
44 because of the low water. Some of the lakes are drying up
45 and a lot of beaver and muskrats are going to the river.

46
47 MS. SAPERSTEIN: We did see quite a few
48 beavers on a river survey and we were documenting them as
49 went along and one thing I'd like to get started is fall
50 beaver cache surveys. Looking for the number of active

00241

1 beaver caches on the refuge. I think some maps were
2 prepared in the past and I don't think they ever completed
3 a survey. And that would be if funding is available, so
4 I'd like to get the maps ready so if it turns out we have
5 funding next fall we'd be ready to go and do it. And
6 muskrats, I'd also be interested in, learning more about
7 and possibly doing something with them.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
10 Kanuti Wildlife? When are you planning your next moose
11 count?

12
13 MS. SAPERSTEIN: We're basically waiting
14 for the snowfall. We need about six to 12 inches. We want
15 to have the low vegetation covered over pretty well as
16 Joanna mentioned; it increases the sightability if you have
17 a good snow cover and then it will be dependent on pilots
18 and planes. Everyone is doing their moose census and
19 surveys at the same time so we kind of get into a crunch
20 for planes and I believe that Fish and Game is hoping to do
21 more of Game Management Unit 24, too, so I'd like to
22 coordinate with them.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: But it will be done this
25 year?

26
27 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Weather permitting.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

30
31 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Yep.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further questions for
34 Kanuti Wildlife? If not, thanks for bearing with us again
35 and thanks for your report.

36
37 MS. SAPERSTEIN: Thank you. I'm sorry
38 about the slides.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's all right. Vince.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just need to
43 do a real quick report. You'll note there on the agenda it
44 says status report on Congressional amendment to ban the
45 commercial trapping on refuges. Under Tab E, the last page
46 is a briefing statement on that and I'll try to touch the
47 highlights on that but you can read it on your own. But
48 basically the House had an amendment to the Appropriations
49 Act that would prohibit the use of jaw leg-hold traps or
50 neck snare in any unit of a National Wildlife Refuge except

00242

1 for research, subsistence, conservation or facilities
2 protection. Basically what happened on that is that it was
3 introduced in the Senate. In September it was tabled by a
4 vote, and then after rejection by the Senate, the amendment
5 was considered by the House Conference Committee and was
6 rejected. So that issue is now dead. The concern about
7 that issue was that it was going to ban commercial trapping
8 from refuges. And I think we sent out a flier or
9 information to you on that. This is the follow up to that
10 action. And you'll see when we talk about the annual
11 report that you've already asked the Board about supporting
12 trapping and the Board response was that the agencies will
13 keep you informed. There seems to be a trend in this type
14 of action so these things happen pretty quickly so we'll
15 try, as different agencies, to keep you informed on actions
16 that are attached to appropriations and other bills. And
17 that's pretty much it on it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, did you see this
20 article in yesterday's Daily News?

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: I had a fellow Park Service
23 employee point it out to me and that summarizes it, too.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: The same way. There was some
28 confusion that that was a Park Service issue, it is not a
29 Park Service issue. It was a Park Service article that
30 they attached this additional information on. But I
31 wouldn't be surprised down the road that there'll be
32 different attempts to do that with other appropriations.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any questions for
35 Vince on this trapping ban? If not, do we have any other
36 agencies to report?

37
38 MR. MATHEWS: I don't believe so but if
39 they're here and they want to. I know we went through all
40 the State, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of
41 Land Management, Park Service confirmed several times they
42 had nothing else to share, and all the Native associations
43 have spoken and had opportunity to speak. So I don't know
44 of any other agencies.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. So at this time it'd
47 be appropriate to go into annual report?

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. And that's under
50 Tab F, and if you want I'll walk you through it as we've

00243

1 done other times or if that's okay with you?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did we -- are we looking for
4 a new submission?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we are. You do not have
7 to. I've advised you over the years to submit an annual
8 report, to use that channel which goes directly to the
9 Board and you've always copied the Secretary of Interior.
10 You don't have to submit an annual report every year. But
11 if you've noticed your issue on increased law enforcement
12 was addressed in your annual report, you did get results
13 from that in addition to your other correspondence. But it
14 may be possible that this year you won't have issues for an
15 annual report, I don't know. To be honest with you I've
16 been swamped with Fisheries planning and et cetera. I've
17 tried with the agenda to list some items that might be
18 annual report items but, you know, you're handling them in
19 other means.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: But it is an avenue that you
24 get full Board attention on, and they've learned to take it
25 quite seriously, the annual report. We do have a summary
26 of last years but I think Ida has a comment.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

29

30 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, Ida
31 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. From listening to
32 your discussions from yesterday and today for your next
33 annual report you might include some of the concerns you've
34 had regarding fisheries. I believe Mr. Morgan stated you
35 had a concern about pike and white fish and other resources
36 other than salmon and you may wish to address that in your
37 annual report as you prepare for fisheries. And also the
38 request to meet with other regional councils.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Did you get that?

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I've.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: The local fish species and
45 their uses.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: Right. The thing is, as you
48 know, maybe I haven't done it with Samson, but basically at
49 this meeting you come up with ideas, I, if you so desire,
50 write them up, I run them by the Chair, he says, they seem

00244

1 close enough and then you have them before you at your next
2 meeting and that's when you finally approve them or even
3 add on additional items.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we've done that in the
6 past, we've added and amended.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And you have the
9 summary from last year in front of you. I believe you
10 received it in the mail. It gets a little confusing to me
11 what is distributed out of Anchorage all the time. So you
12 should have gotten this letter, I believe, in the mail, but
13 I'm not always certain that that happens.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that we should
16 include our recommendations on the coordinating boards for
17 fisheries.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: At some time, even though we
22 haven't gotten a consensus at this time, so that should be.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Did you do something on the
25 coordinating council?

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, we tabled that at the
28 time. Did you have anything to add there?

29

30 MR. REAKOFF: I think that a coordinating
31 board for the Yukon and Kuskokwim is pretty warranted.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Could we submit that as our
34 leanings at this time?

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. It would be submitted,
37 both, I understand through your annual report and also in
38 response to the request for the group that's looking at
39 regional council structure.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Just between discussion -- I
42 mean just in discussions between our Council members, we
43 feel that we might have to appoint probably four members,
44 two to Kuskokwim and two to Yukon and keep these issues
45 separate, that way we won't be crossing each others
46 boundaries or fighting over the same issues and keep them --
47 keep the Kuskokwim and try to solve everything on the
48 Kuskokwim side and Yukon, the Yukon side as a separate
49 issue, keep them on their own drainages. I think it would
50 overload a couple of our members to attend both sessions.

00245

1 So that's our leanings at this time unless there was
2 anything?

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Can you think of anything
7 else that we could include in the annual report?

8
9 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: I have pretty strong concerns
14 for the Dalton Highway Corridor bow hunt, especially on the
15 moose. And I feel that investigation should be made as to
16 the wound loss rate. There's got to be some data on wound
17 loss with bow and arrow, which is not the same as rifle
18 loss. The State is using in moose hunter planning group,
19 they're using a 15 percent wound loss for rifle hunters,
20 but I feel that that bow hunt wound loss is much higher.
21 And the State's going to be doing a survey in that area so
22 we'll get more current data for that area on the moose
23 population and then with the harvest that's reported,
24 combined with that wound loss rate, we'll be able to see if
25 this moose herd is actually enduring maximum sustained
26 yield.

27
28 So I would like to see this into the annual report,
29 that this is a concern as the Central Arctic Caribou Herd
30 hasn't been staying on the North Slope. There's not enough
31 hunters that come up, they can't hunt caribou so they come
32 down to the south slope and are heavily hunting the moose
33 there. So I would like to see data produced on wound loss
34 rates for bow hunting and then the further tracking of this
35 moose population in the Dalton Highway Corridor.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Include it in the annual
38 report?

39
40 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, for the annual report.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Another possible topic which
45 you're addressing through another panel, but you, someone
46 correct me if I'm wrong, are not keeping the Board informed
47 of is your actions dealing with wanton waste and all that,
48 that you may want to keep the Board, who you serve,
49 informed of your actions, that you're looking into
50 Department of Law, and et cetera. It might be good to keep

00246

1 them informed of that since you did, in your 1998 report
2 talk about wanton waste and they directed you to work with
3 the agencies, I believe, and others and now you've done it
4 and you're looking at that as a possible solution.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, Vince, Jack drafted a
7 letter last night while we were sitting down watching TV
8 addressing this issue and we were trying to find out where
9 to shoot this letter to. Again, this issue is also being
10 discussed and analyzed by the Koyukuk River Moose Working
11 Group. But it's quite apparent that we're not going
12 nowhere so Jack has a letter, and I'd like to ask Jack to
13 comment on this.

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: I could read this letter for
16 the Council. This is from the Western Interior Regional
17 Council to the Department of Law. Dear Sirs, the Western
18 Interior Regional Council is very concerned with the
19 problem of salvaged, but spoiled big game meat. We have
20 taken testimonies from many residents of the Western
21 Interior and enforcement officers, who are frustrated by
22 the current State Statute language. Most rural and urban
23 hunters find it very offensive to see big game transported
24 from the field in a spoiled condition then thrown in the
25 dump. The waste of thousands of pounds of meat through
26 neglect is intolerable to most Alaskan hunters and also
27 non-hunters. We, therefore, earnestly request the
28 Department of Law to work with Fish and Wildlife Protection
29 to draft language which will reflect proper salvage. An
30 enforceable law requiring removal of all the meat of a big
31 game animal in an unspoiled condition for human consumption
32 is needed. Disposal of an animal after removal from the
33 field should constitute grounds for citation. Negligence
34 of basic meat care should no longer be considered or
35 tolerated as circumstances beyond the control of the
36 hunter. Educational pamphlets regarding dressing,
37 skinning, cooling, hanging, cloth bags, rain and sun covers
38 and removal to refrigeration in warm weather should be
39 available from ADF&T. Ignorance should not be an excuse.
40 And then CC copies to Representative Carl Morgan, Senator
41 Georgianna Lincoln, and the Alaska Board of Game.

42
43 And also insert it into our annual report?

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Go ahead, Vince.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think it's a
48 great letter. I thought there was discussion about
49 removing the word edible from the word statute. I don't
50 know if that needs to be in there or not or does that cover

00247

1 your intent. Remember Officer Blank mentioned that removal
2 of the word, edible, might help.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: I didn't have edible, I have
5 an enforceable law requiring removal of all the meat of a
6 big game animal in an unspoiled condition for human
7 consumption.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: I don't want to argue with
10 Jack but remember he said if the meat spoils that they did
11 not have to remove the meat then -- I'm overgeneralizing
12 that but essentially that's what he concluded, that through
13 an act of god, someone help me out here, act of god II,
14 that if the meat spoils due to an act of god out there,
15 they do not have to transport it in and his feelings was --
16 and again, this is one officer, that he thought that edible
17 should be removed so they have to take everything in. But
18 maybe I'm on the wrong track and maybe someone else can
19 help me on this. I think the letter addresses the concerns
20 very well. I'm just remembering the lengthy discussion on
21 the word, edible.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh. Ray, did you
24 have.....

25
26 MR. COLLINS: Well, I was just thinking
27 that when they actually draft regulation that's the point
28 where they look at wording to do that. And I don't want to
29 suggest wording because that's kind of a lawyers game.
30 They'll -- maybe removal would help, but I think the letter
31 addresses what we want, that they bring it out in a way if
32 it's spoiled or not, maybe that would be the fix but maybe
33 it wouldn't.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: This is the gist of what all
42 of the testimony that we've taken. And how they word it to
43 preclude using any excuse for spoiling the meat in the
44 field and then abandoning the meat there or how the
45 Department of Law makes this wording, this is what we're --
46 at least this is where I feel it's become intolerable.
47 This is a main point of contention between rural residents
48 who utilize the resource close to the resource and seeing
49 resource taken from their area and then spoiled and rotted,
50 and tried to give it to, even members of our Council, in a

00248

1 spoiled condition. This is intolerable and this is where
2 the Department of Law has to use all of their dictionaries
3 to come up with the proper language to alleviate this
4 problem.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Carl.

7
8 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, I'm glad you're going to
9 send me a letter, too, because I think it will take the
10 Legislature to introduce the bill. And when it does get
11 written up, we have a whole slew of lawyers that we got at
12 our disposal that we will look at, I will look at it and I
13 will recommend taking out edible. And when the bill --
14 when I introduce the bill it will have a section there
15 deleting edible.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the record's
18 clear then.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: I got everything on the
23 record.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. The other
26 concern I would like expressed in our annual report is,
27 again, the air transporters. That I would like to leave
28 the illegal guiding out of there because the air
29 transporters are the ones that need to be regulated. And I
30 think that we should pursue either statutes or a proposal
31 to classify air transporters in the same plane as
32 registered guides, keep them under the same regulations as
33 far as reporting and what else was there, I know we
34 discussed it in one of our other meetings, maybe in the
35 Koyukuk River Moose Working Group.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, you talked about it at
38 the working group and I think it's good timing on that
39 because I think refuge is looking into that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah. I would like to get
42 them regulated the same as registered guides. That's what
43 we want to see. Is there anything else? Ray.

44
45 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, we had called
46 for last year, increased law enforcement at the check
47 stations and in general through wanton waste and the other
48 thing, and I think we should say something this year that
49 we're pleased to see the efforts that took place this last
50 year and hope that will continue because it did make a

00249

1 difference, I think, like in the GASH area. They were
2 saying there were fewer, just because they were there there
3 were fewer incidents possibly and it's -- there's possible
4 action coming out of what happened in Kanuti. But again,
5 it's the process of we asked for it and we recommended it,
6 they did it, let's compliment the agencies that did and say
7 continue. Something to that effect.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, because it really
10 makes a difference. It's made some difference, even though
11 with all the hunters that hit the Koyukuk River. Is there
12 anything else that we can think of at this time?

13
14 MR. STICKMAN: I think there should be
15 maybe something there with the sport fishermen. You know,
16 they're trespassing and it is in the refuge.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do you get the picture
19 there?

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: I get the picture there, the
22 issue is that people that are under sport fishing, either
23 guided or not being guided are trespassing on private
24 lands. But what I'm a little lost on there is generally
25 we've learned over the years with the annual report that we
26 have to flag an issue and then suggest potential solution
27 or indicate direction towards a solution. So what might
28 that be in this area?

29
30 MS. HILDEBRAND: Law enforcement.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: Well, wouldn't the solution
33 come out once we get into the fisheries program? I mean
34 aren't we going to be going into some details there.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

37
38 MR. STICKMAN: But still I'd want it to be
39 in the annual report just to shed light on it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Ray.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, maybe an approach would
44 be to ask for a closer look at the growing sport fishery
45 activity and so on. In terms of law enforcement, when I
46 talked about that trespassing zone, that's kind of an
47 individual matter. You almost have to do what Holy Cross
48 did and hire security guards out there or the corporation
49 or resident has to take them to State court and use the
50 laws that are there. The agencies, I don't think, go after

00250

1 trespass, even the State Troopers won't go after unless you
2 make a complaint and file it with the court that somebody's
3 trespassing on private land, I don't think the others are
4 charged with enforcing trespass. Maybe I'm wrong in that
5 but that was my understanding.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Gerald.

8
9 MR. NICHOLIA: Yeah, I deal with Native
10 allotments for the Tanana Tribal Council and what the
11 regional solicitor told me and the protection officer in
12 Juneau told me that it'd be better for me to handle it in
13 the field. They just don't have the funds and manpower and
14 check and investigate every trespass case.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Ida.

17
18 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, Ida
19 Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. This came up in
20 the Koyukuk River Moose Management discussions and it comes
21 up everywhere there's a Native allotment. In the Kaiyuh
22 Flats there are Native allotments and lots of Native use
23 lands and there is gross violation of trespass by these
24 sport people coming in and literally using the cabins that
25 belong to the local people and saying they didn't know it
26 was private property. In the Koyukuk River discussions, I
27 believe it was Lorrie Loulnaltz (ph) who recommended
28 seriously considering trespass, criminal trespass as a
29 means of triggering the Lacey Act. So it just adds to the
30 piles of triggers for Lacey Act.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: David.

33
34 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair, David James with
35 Alaska Fish and Game. I may not have followed all the
36 comments here but the policy is that if a trespasser is
37 approached by a person that has the authority of -- the
38 property owner or whether it's somebody speaking on behalf
39 of a Native corporation. The procedure is to approach
40 them, let the person know that they are trespassing and
41 then ask them to leave. And then there's a process whereby
42 it has to be -- you know, given them a reasonable amount of
43 time to leave. And then if they refuse to comply with
44 that, then the State Troopers, you know, on a priority
45 case, will intervene. They had that happen recently.
46 Steven's Village did that. They approached someone. The
47 person on the property told them to go take a hike. They
48 called up the Troopers, and Trooper Jim Lowe, who's a Fish
49 and Wildlife Protection Officer went out there and
50 approached the people on the property and let them know

00251

1 they were trespassing and kicked them off. So that's not
2 to say that the Troopers can always respond in every
3 situation, but that's the process. They won't go out there
4 and initiate patrols themselves. But if the property owner
5 initiates the process, I mean that's how the State law
6 works, and Troopers are available, then, you know, they
7 will help to enforce that law.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. Any other
10 concerns or additions to our annual report? Vince.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: And if you happen to think of
13 some you can get a hold of me or Ron and we can do it
14 because it's a draft that comes back before you again. But
15 I do run it by the Chair for approval then to add it to the
16 annual report just to keep some kind of oversight on it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, and we discuss it at
19 our next meeting.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Now, Mr. Chairman, under
22 annual reports there is -- I don't -- I think I'm getting
23 the drift from you you don't need a summary of what
24 happened from the last one?

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: No.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, but you do need -- the
29 annual report, you brought up guide outfitter activities
30 and we did generate information on the data or a report on
31 the guide outfitter activities on all Federal lands within
32 you region so we have that to present. I, through the
33 agenda, put it at this time. So it's up to your discretion
34 if you want to go through the report that came out of your
35 annual report -- that was generated from your annual
36 report.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's the Board's feeling,
39 do you want to hear that, guides, outfitters, air taxi?

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: It is in your book.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Tab?

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Tab F, as in Frank, and it's
46 right past the annual report, and Pete can talk about it.
47 I suppose what I'm trying to say is I think you may want to
48 really look at it, it's still your discretion but you did
49 move the Board to say that that needed to be looked at.
50 The Board endorsed it. It might be worth a few minutes

00252

1 just to look at it. It's the report that says report on
2 commercial hunting guides, outfitters, transporters
3 operating on Federal public lands. And then it's broken
4 down by the different agencies, BLM, Park Service.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS:and refuges. If you
9 find it there, it's just before you hit Tab G and work your
10 way back and you'll see the title.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right. It looks pretty
13 thorough. I think we all should bring this home and really
14 go over it, really study it. Jack.

15
16 MR. REAKOFF: I think a brief overview
17 would be good.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, go ahead Jack.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, maybe Pete
22 could just give us a short overview of what this
23 information is.

24
25 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, the Board
26 responded to your request in your annual report by
27 directing Staff to assemble this information. And as Vince
28 mentioned, it's divided by the three agencies, Bureau of
29 Land Management, National Park Service and then the Fish
30 and Wildlife Service. And Pages 1 through 3 list the
31 permitted guides and transporters who are permitted to
32 operate in the Western Interior on BLM administrated lands.
33 And you'll see the name of the guide and you'll also see in
34 the right-hand column, under game management unit, the unit
35 or units that person is permitted to operate in. And
36 that's for the Bureau of Land Management.

37
38 On Page 4 begins the section for National Parks and
39 Preserves, that's divided into the Denali National Park and
40 Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and Gates
41 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. And the
42 following pages list again the operations that are
43 permitted to operate on the Parks and Preserves. Keep in
44 mind that the hunting guides are not permitted by the Park
45 Service to operate on the parks just on preserves.

46
47 Page 11 and 12 of that section, you'll find an
48 information sheet that would list, if someone wanted to
49 apply for a guide permit or an air taxi permit, how that
50 person would obtain an application and who they would

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1 submit it to. And then on Page 13 you'll see the
2 application packet that a potential guide would submit to
3 the Park Service for a permit and you'll see it's quite
4 lengthy.

5
6 On Page 24 begins that National Wildlife Refuge
7 section. In the Western Interior you have the Innoko
8 National Wildlife Refuge, the northern unit of the Innoko
9 which is more commonly known as the Kaiyuh Flats, the
10 Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, the Nowitna Refuge and
11 the Kanuti Refuge. And again, it's broken out pretty much
12 in the same manner listing the names of the operations and
13 again exactly where they're permitted by those refuges to
14 operate.

15
16 The Fish and Wildlife Service does something
17 slightly different. If you look on Page 27 you'll see a
18 map for the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. And the
19 Innoko's been divided into one, two, three, four areas and
20 those they call guide areas. If you look on the previous
21 page, on 26, you see the first operation there, that person
22 is permitted to operate by the refuge in Innoko section 03
23 and 04, and you can see the corresponding areas on the map
24 to the right. And the same holds true for the rest of the
25 refuges in the Western Interior and throughout the state.
26 The refuges are divided up into areas and there's only one
27 guide awarded a permit per area. And then on Page 35
28 through 73 is the application packet, again, that a guide
29 would submit to the Fish and Wildlife Service for a permit
30 to allow them to operate on a national wildlife refuge in
31 the Western Interior.

32
33 That's about as brief of summary I could make on
34 this. It's quite a bit of information and I'd like to
35 thank the Staffs of the agencies, Park Service, Fish and
36 Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management for
37 sharing this information to compile this report. And also
38 Paul Hunter, of the Park Service, stumbled across this
39 little booklet that you have in front of you called
40 Commercial Visitor Services in Alaska. Evidently this was
41 put together by multi-agency groups of all the Federal
42 agencies and the State of Alaska and pretty much gives a
43 brief synopsis of a person wanted to apply for a permit,
44 say, for a guiding outfit in any of the respective lands in
45 Alaska, how that person could obtain an application and who
46 that person would submit that application to. So you have
47 that as well to digest.

48
49 And with that, I'll turn it back to Mr. Chair.

50

00254

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Pete. So just
2 going through this, very briefly, do all parks, preserves,
3 wildlife refuges actively pursue or advertise opportunities
4 to hunt or get permits to operate within these refuges?

5
6 MR. DeMATTEO: If I understand the question
7 correctly, you're asking how does the public become aware
8 of this process?

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's part of it but do all
11 refuges invite people to apply for guiding activities
12 within the refuges?

13
14 MR. DeMATTEO: To my knowledge there's no
15 invitation or a call for applications to the public.
16 People seeking these is a business enterprise, they figure
17 out where they want to operate and then investigate exactly
18 how they need to take the process of application and who to
19 submit it to.

20
21 Mr. Chair, I believe David James has something to
22 add.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

25
26 MR. JAMES: David James, Alaska Fish and
27 Game. Thinking back to the time that I was working for the
28 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and coordinating some of the
29 subsistence activities with three refuges. There have
30 been, at least, occasions in the past when that
31 availability is put out to public notice. And I don't know
32 if they do it every time or not, but I do know that it at
33 least occurs occasionally.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Annually?

36
37 MR. JAMES: It's just part of the public
38 process.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think you
43 know this but I better make sure. The refuge is divided up
44 into guiding zones, is that the term, Pete?

45
46 MR. DeMATTEO: (Nods affirmatively)

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: And so the refuge just
49 doesn't, and I will let the Park Service talk about their
50 own for the preserves, there is a compatibility

00255

1 determination and et cetera to figure out areas where
2 guiding could go on. They divide the refuge up and do it
3 that way so it's not just anywhere they want to go, the
4 guides. Now, the outfitters, that's a different question
5 and I don't even want to touch on that. Others would have
6 to talk about outfitters.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Outfitters, meaning illegal
9 guides?

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: And taxi operators, correct.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete.

14

15 MR. DeMATTEO: Getting back to what Mr.
16 James just conveyed to us, to what degree that happens I'm
17 not sure. I can only speak for the refuges that I've dealt
18 with. They haven't actively gone after the public and
19 advertised it. I'm sure it happens in the Code of
20 Regulations at the national level but exactly, say, like on
21 the streets of Anchorage how much of that is broadcasted I
22 really couldn't say at this point but I will run that down
23 for you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

26

27 MR. DeMATTEO: Getting to what Vince said,
28 as far as outfitters, that's kind of a grey area. A guide
29 can be an outfitter as well. He can supply a camp for you
30 or he can rent you a tent, either way guides and
31 outfitters, under this permitting process are usually
32 lumped into one. The outfitters that may be in Anchorage
33 have a sporting goods store that will rent you a tent, I
34 don't think are a part of this discussion. They're
35 irrelevant who -- how you get your tent out to the field.

36

37 The other issue is the transporters and from our
38 previous discussion at the last meeting in Galena, we've
39 divided transporters into air taxi operators and boat
40 transporters. Now, under this permitting process for these
41 agencies, they do regulate by permit air taxi operators.
42 But there are no permits for boat operators who transport
43 hunters or meat or hunter's gear by permitting process.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: I thought I saw it under one
46 of these.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: That's where I was trying to
49 go because the term is not correct but it's the only way I
50 can think of, they're unregulated. They don't require a

00256

1 permit as long as they stay in that water. If they have a
2 facility on the land that requires a land use then they
3 have to get a permit from the refuge. But maybe refuge
4 staff, if they so desire, may want to speak on that. But I
5 know the Kanuti -- not Kanuti, Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge was
6 looking into what it would take to give them authority to
7 have a permitting system established for them. And I don't
8 know where that's at. And I don't think other Staff are up
9 to speed on that yet. But that was a big discussion at the
10 working group, was how could you end up permitting these
11 transporters, I hope I'm using the right term here, and the
12 refuge manager said he was going to explore into how they
13 could be granted that authority. And I don't know where
14 that is.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete.

17

18 MR. DeMATTEO: What Vince said is correct.
19 Remember, again, to clarify something, boat transporters,
20 now, a guide -- a permitted guide can choose to transport
21 his clients by a boat and that's within the special
22 conditions of the permit, that's fine. But a person that's
23 operating out there illegally with no permit and that
24 person is transporting hunters or camping gear or meat from
25 the hunters in and out of the field, that person is
26 operating illegally and does not have a permit. We do not
27 have any of these people permitted.

28

29 As Vince was mentioning at the moose hunter work
30 group meeting, I believe it was Gene Williams who said, as
31 far as he knew at the time there was no regulations on the
32 books that would allow him to start a permitting process
33 for those people and he was trying to investigate what it
34 would take maybe to pursue that avenue.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, was there any action
37 needed on this or was it mostly information?

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: It was informational in
40 response to your concern earlier about the level of guiding
41 activities, outfitter, air taxi operators. No, there's no
42 action needed on this at this time. If you remember, we
43 had lengthy discussions about this at Allakaket and then
44 followed up at Galena.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Galena.

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: This is an outcome of it. I
49 think a few meetings down the road you're going to be back
50 looking at this.

00257

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think that we should start
2 looking closely at this because we see a lot of familiar
3 names down there, too. Pete.

4
5 MR. DeMATTEO: Keep in mind that, like
6 Vince said, you could use this as a reference guide, but
7 this will change over time.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

10
11 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay. These are awarded on
12 a time basis. In other words, the permits do expire.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

15
16 MR. DeMATTEO: So the names may change.
17 But these issues and these operations do ducktail into the
18 wanton waste as you already know so you may pull this out
19 at a later date for information resource.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: I was unclear to what these
24 sport fishing guides fall under, they're under non-class of
25 transporter or what are they considered?

26
27 MR. DeMATTEO: The guided sport fishing
28 they were also required, on the refuges, to have a permit.
29 And if you look at Page 25, for the Innoko National
30 Wildlife Refuge, for instance, at the very top of the page.
31 There's one, two -- one, two three commercial sport fishing
32 guides that are permitted by the refuge.

33
34 MR. REAKOFF: Do they have areas that they
35 stay in or they can just fish over the top of each other?

36
37 MR. DeMATTEO: I'm not totally familiar
38 with that operation there. You may want to call upon the
39 refuge Staff to answer that question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Innoko. Go ahead, Jack.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: My question was, do these
44 sport fishing -- permitted sport fishing guides on Innoko,
45 do they have like guide areas or do they just go wherever
46 they want and congregate all in one place?

47
48 MS. REID: Laura Reid at Innoko Refuge.
49 No, they're just following State regulations. The thing to
50 point out about all of this permitting activities with the

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1 National Wildlife Refuges is these folks are operating in a
2 navigable waterway for the most part, even the air taxis,
3 you know, when they land their float planes in the rivers,
4 and so they're under State regulations and they are
5 permitted to be there under State regulations. And the
6 only thing we're permitting is their activities when they
7 get on to the lands and waters of the Innoko National
8 Wildlife Refuge or any other refuge. We're not permitting
9 them to land their planes within the rivers because, right
10 now, that's considered a navigable waterway and we can't
11 control that.

12
13 And so in the sport fishing, it's done primarily in
14 the navigable waterway so that's even less regulated, they
15 usually aren't stepping on to the bank unless they have
16 spike camps and that sort of thing. But a lot of these
17 folks operate off the floats of their planes and we even
18 have a houseboat that goes up there where the folks are
19 living and operating off the houseboat, but we still issue
20 them a permit because their folks are bank fishing and that
21 sort of thing, get out of -- step on the land.

22
23 MR. REAKOFF: Is there a quota of these
24 sport fishing guides that you have like a cap on the
25 number?

26
27 MS. REID: No, there isn't right now.
28 There is no sport fishing cap that we have right now. But
29 we are -- we have requested funding for a fisheries study.
30 We don't -- the State has done some work in this area and
31 we don't feel there's an overuse of the resource right now
32 but it's something that we need to monitor. But, yeah,
33 there is no cap on the number of permits that we will issue
34 and there's no cap on the State's issuing the sport guide
35 fishing registrations.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: Um.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAM: How far do we want to go on
40 this issue? Are we missing something here or do we need
41 action or what?

42
43 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

46
47 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, this
48 compilation of information in your books are in response to
49 your previous questions to both the Federal and the State
50 representatives at your meeting, what exactly is entailed,

00259

1 who gets these permits, who are these people and so far
2 this is only reflecting Federal portions of it. Perhaps
3 you need to make the same request to the State people to
4 show their state laws and what's their regulations and
5 who's getting permitted. But it is in response to that.
6 So this Council and the members of this Council that are on
7 the Koyukuk River Moose Management Group or Team or
8 whatever, were saying, well, who are these people, how do
9 we know they're legal and this is only the very beginning
10 of listing those people that are known to be in that area.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: You do have in your book of
15 how the Park Service does their permitting.

16
17 MR. DeMATTEO: The application process.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Right, the application
20 process. And then in anticipation of this with assistance
21 of Ida, I have all the regulations to give you -- wildlife
22 refuges, how they go through it, not as neatly as the Park
23 Service one. And then BLM, Ida, I didn't research how
24 their permitting process -- because you were asking how
25 these people get a permit and how is a permit reviewed and
26 what's all that process, it was enveloped into this
27 discussion before. Now, you don't need to deal with it
28 now, I'm just saying that this is all available for you,
29 and, you know, because that's how the discussion went
30 before.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Carl.

33
34 MR. MORGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Pete, so a registered guide, he can be all three then? He
36 can be an outfitter and he can -- he can be commercial -- I
37 mean a sports fisherman and drop them off. So when they
38 get -- when his clients get cited, do they cite him as the
39 registered guide or outfitter? I mean that seems like he's
40 in a very lucrative business.

41
42 MR. DeMATTEO: True. Some of these
43 operations are guides, outfitters and also transporters
44 because of the remoteness in Alaska, they also provide the
45 service of air taxi operation and also boat transporter.
46 So a client might see that as a full service business,
47 okay. I imagine it varies. If you look at the names of
48 some of these operations, some refer to themselves as
49 guides, some just go by their names, some refer to
50 themselves as a lodge, some call themselves a guiding

00260

1 service, Safari Clubs, you name it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: This was for our
4 information.....

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM:and to utilize?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, where are we now,
13 subsistence issues?

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the way I
16 understood it that you've given me a list of topics for the
17 annual report for me to develop, they seem to be based on a
18 consensual agreement with the caveat that you have a chance
19 to review them at the next meeting, so I think we're done
20 with the annual report part because you already said that
21 you were comfortable with the written material in front of
22 you responding to your annual report last year. So if that
23 is the case then we're ready to move into review of
24 proposals, you know, past and future.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, just before we drop
27 the annual report, you all have Vince's 800 number, so if
28 you can think of anything to add -- we call each other a
29 lot so we'll all know about any additions.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: And I'll need a copy of
32 Jack's letter because that was directed to be part of that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: And I do want the record to
37 reflect that Jack has been extremely helpful in writing
38 these things up on different ones. It helps myself
39 tremendously.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Not only letters but he
42 drafts proposals while we're meeting, too. Subsistence
43 review.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The next one is
46 basically, there's two parts of it. I'm going to cover one
47 part and then Pete and George will cover the other, and
48 there may be more parts, but the way I look at it is is
49 what happened last year and then they're going to address
50 what may happen next year. So if you turn to Tab G as in

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1 Galena, and you should have gotten this in the mail so I
2 may not need to cover it all. But this is the written
3 response to your regional council recommendations.

4
5 By law the Board or Secretary has to respond in
6 writing as to why they did not accept your recommendation.
7 The way we've applied that is we respond to all your
8 determinations even if the Board -- or recommendations even
9 if the Board adopted it. So those are the responses to it.
10 You also received it in the mail. So I'll stop there to
11 see if you need review of how the Board handled the eight
12 or nine proposals that you addressed last year.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think we have time to
15 review. With permission of the Council, could we go into
16 new proposals? And these are action items?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: No, what I'm covering is what
19 happened last year, these are not action items.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Well, no, they're not action
24 items unless the proposal was deferred then it's going to
25 be back before you. And we do have one proposal that was
26 deferred, Proposal 44, so that one will be back before you
27 this year. Yes, 44 will be.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there any changes or has
30 this been reintroduced?

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I don't understand
33 what.....

34
35 MS. HILDEBRAND: Number 44.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: 44 is basically been deferred
38 action consistent with your recommendation.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Has there been any further
41 action on any.....

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, I'm sorry. To my
44 knowledge there has not been but the author of that
45 proposal may know more, which is Micky, and then you can
46 collaborate from there.

47
48 MR. STICKMAN: No.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Do we have any

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1 questions from the Council? If not I'd like to go into
2 action items, proposals.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I'm
5 losing it here. There is one that's -- it's not under
6 action items but it is kind of an action item, it's
7 Proposal 15. It was never reviewed by you because it
8 didn't affect your region but now it's being considered a
9 state wide proposal so I think Pete's going to talk about
10 that one. It was addressed by Eastern Interior and they're
11 here to share what they felt about that proposal. And
12 again, the agenda was made in July so it is an action item
13 if you so desire to comment on it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Proposal 15. Go ahead,
16 Pete.

17
18 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 15 was
19 submitted last year by the Copper River Native Association.
20 And this proposal would modify the general regulations that
21 deal with possession and transport of wildlife and
22 specific, to eliminate the evidence of sex requirements for
23 moose in Units 11 and 13.

24
25 The current regulations require hunters to leave
26 the external sex organs attached to the moose carcass
27 during the bull only seasons. The Board, hearing the
28 analysis, decided that this has state wide ramifications
29 beyond Units 11 and 13 and decided to take it back to the
30 councils and get further information before they make a
31 decision. And with that, the Board asked Staff to ask the
32 councils some questions to get some further information but
33 before that I'm supposed to read you eight things to
34 consider on this topic.

35
36 The first one deals with, why has this regulation
37 been opposed in the past and the present? And there's four
38 topics of consideration here. First, and I'll read them
39 from the book, and it's under Tab G. The pages are not
40 numbered but if you read under regional advisory council
41 issue inquiry on the second page. The first one says:
42 Leaving the male sex organs attached spoils the adjacent
43 meat especially during the rut. The second consideration
44 is: Retaining the male sex organs of a moose is not a
45 customary and traditional practice in many regions of the
46 state. Number 3: Most subsistence hunters currently bring
47 in the antlers anyway due to their economic value in
48 today's market. And four: Retaining the male sex organs
49 is a culturally offensive practice and a subsistence hunter
50 should be trusted to be able to tell bulls from cows and

00263

1 not harvest cows when prohibited.

2

3 In addition to that there's four more
4 considerations under the topic of why keep the regulation
5 in place? The first one is: Cows are protected in
6 unstable or otherwise weak local populations by providing a
7 means to ensure compliance with bull only harvest
8 regulations. Number 2: It provides the option for
9 subsistence hunters to leave the antlers in the field.
10 Number 3: Winter subsistence harvest during December
11 through February of antlerless bulls can be monitored.
12 These harvests currently occur in Units 9, 17, 18, 19, 20,
13 22 and 25. And the last one: Federal regulations are
14 currently consistent with State regulations which
15 simplifies requirements for moose hunters, whether they are
16 hunting on State or Federal lands.

17

18 With those eight considerations, the Board has four
19 questions for you. The first is: This regulation serves
20 the purpose of protecting a cow moose in a bull only
21 harvest season. Can you suggest any alternative methods of
22 achieving this goal? In other words, of protecting cows,
23 that would be less culturally offensive or would better
24 preserve the quality of the meat?

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: I was in attendance when
27 this proposal was brought up for consideration. At that
28 time, all the Chairs that were there tried to do away with
29 leaving the sex organs attached. And what other action can
30 we do, I mean, do we want to just go ahead and drop the
31 proposal or just -- where do we want to go? Pete.

32

33 MR. DeMATTEO: For the record, are you
34 saying that you support doing away with the regulation to
35 eliminate proof of sex?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. We tried that already.

38

39 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay. So you're
40 communicating to the Board that you want to keep your
41 decision as last year on this? Sorry, you attended the
42 Board meeting so you sat in on this?

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

45

46 MR. DeMATTEO: So what the Board is asking
47 is what is the Council's position on this?

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any?

50

00264

1 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, Jack.

4
5 MR. REAKOFF: It's kind of a pain in the
6 neck to keep those gonads on the meat all right, but then
7 we would get out of step with the State with this thing and
8 then we would -- and unless you could prove that you killed
9 it on Federal land when you had it home, then you'd get
10 into a twist of enforcement. So I think that this could
11 possibly cause trouble for some people who hunt on
12 different kinds of land. But it is kind of a problem, it
13 causes, you know, it's kind of in the way and stuff.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: So do we have a stand here?
16 Any other Council member concern? 11 and 13, what area is
17 that, Units 11 and 13?

18
19 MR. DeMATTEO: Southcentral.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let them deal with it at
22 home. Maybe the hunters would stay home, too.

23
24 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chairman, your position
25 is respected there. But understand that any Board action
26 has the potential to affect your lives as well.

27
28 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

31
32 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
33 Committee member. This is a Southcentral proposal and it
34 came before the Board and the Board said -- the question
35 the Board raised is this just a regional problem or is it a
36 state wide problem, and they would like all councils to
37 give some comments on it. And your statement that it's a
38 regional problem not a state wide problem is a legitimate
39 comment that the Board will accept. For your information,
40 other councils have stated such things as do a DNA test on
41 it if you want to know what it is, look at the hooves,
42 hooves of cows are different from bulls, and cut off the
43 organs, put them in a baggie and give it to ADF&G.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Pete.

46
47 MR. DeMATTEO: Getting back to question
48 one, Mr. Chair, does the Council have any suggestions for
49 the Board that would serve as alternative methods of
50 achieving the goal, that is, protecting the cows during a

00265

1 bull only harvest season? In other words, if they did away
2 with the requirement of proof of sex, is there another way
3 that you can think of that would prove the sex that is not
4 culturally offensive to the people that you represent?

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Oh, my god. Any comments
7 from the Council?

8

9 MR. COLLINS: Well, I guess the alternative
10 is bringing in the horns instead of the gonads.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Wasn't that already
13 discussed, antlers? Antlers? Moose head?

14

15 MR. DeMATTEO: The State regulation, which
16 the Federal regulation adopted as well is that the antlers
17 come out of the field last. And that in addition to that,
18 the proof of sex also must be attached to the meat. So the
19 antlers is not enough proof alone.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: God, who are we dealing with
22 here? Do we have any recommendations? The other thing we
23 could do is just table this and let the whole Board deal
24 with it and refer it back to the region -- units.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would say
27 that it's a regional concern and I haven't had a concern
28 with this issue myself.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's the first thing we
31 remove out there. Pete.

32

33 MR. DeMATTEO: If it makes life easier
34 today, this, I think, it will go to analysis and it will
35 come back before you at your next meeting and you'll have a
36 change to make opinions on it then.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, let's defer it until
39 our February meeting but we will discuss it before the
40 Federal Subsistence Board meets in May. Is that fine?
41 We've spent too long on -- it's beginning to stink in this
42 area.

43

44 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, your
45 comments on record are sufficient for the request that the
46 Board has made to you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's that?

49

50 MS. HILDEBRAND: The comments by this

00266

1 Council is sufficient for the purposes of the Board's
2 question to you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SAM: That we defer.

5
6 MS. HILDEBRAND: That one of your members
7 stated that this is a regional problem not a state wide
8 problem. Another one said defer it to the council who
9 originated the proposal and to the Board. And you state
10 that there would be further discussion. But all the
11 comments that are on the transcript are sufficient for
12 Board purposes as to what this Council thinks.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Ida. Next item.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chair, that brings us up
17 to -- and I need to consult here real quickly. I don't
18 know of any proposals that have been submitted. The
19 comment deadline for proposals is November 5th. I don't
20 know of any that's been submitted but Pete and George may
21 know of some that have been submitted so George says no and
22 Pete says no.

23
24 Okay. I had put down the review of Alaska Board of
25 Game's call for proposals. I'm not sure that was necessary
26 in there.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAM: No, delete that, we
29 discussed that, I think, pretty thoroughly.

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. I think I'll turn this
32 over to Pete on the whole topic of potential proposals.
33 What I did there with the agenda was looked at what you
34 discussed last meeting and noted which ones down there but
35 I think Pete can cover those items.

36
37 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair it's been shared
38 with me by the Council prior to this discussion that
39 there's concern for the brown bear season in Unit 21(D) in
40 the Federal regulations. The current regulation is one
41 bear every four regulatory years. The State regulation,
42 however, for the same place is one bear every regulatory
43 year and this is under the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear
44 Management area.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: So the State did go to one
47 bear every regulatory year?

48
49 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, sir. So therefore, the
50 Federal regulation is more restrictive.

00267

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: So all we would have to do
2 is bring in a proposal from this committee to realign with
3 the State?

4
5 MR. DeMATTEO: That is correct.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: So let's introduce a
8 proposal to that effect.

9
10 MR. COLLINS: So moved.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

13
14 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved and seconded to --
17 will you state that again?

18
19 MR. DeMATTEO: Align the harvest limit.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

22
23 MR. DeMATTEO:for brown bear, Unit
24 21(D) with that of the State.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that 21(D) and 24?

27
28 MR. DeMATTEO: And also.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is 24 already covered under
31 the Northwest?

32
33 MR. DeMATTEO: Yes, it is.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, can I make that a
36 broader motion that we realign all of our seasons with the
37 State where the State is more liberal because I think
38 there's another one you mentioned on moose somewhere where
39 our season's shorter than the State's?

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh. Go ahead, Pete.

42
43 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Mr. Collins is
44 correct. In keeping with the Council's request, you
45 directed Staff to keep an ongoing list where the Federal
46 regulations are more restrictive than that of the State and
47 we have that before us now, and we can go down that list
48 real quick.

49
50 MR. COLLINS: And then deal with it with

00268

1 one motion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: One motion.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: And as Staff we would write
6 those proposals based on your intent. And obviously if we
7 get them wrong you can correct them at the next meeting.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: But these proposals deal
10 with -- I mean the only ones that we want to deal with are
11 the ones that have shortchanged ourselves, right?

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Correct.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

16

17 MR. DeMATTEO: Correct.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's an amended motion,
20 do you second the motion?

21

22 MR. REAKOFF: I want to know what the list
23 is.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we got a call for the
26 list.

27

28 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay, Mr. Chair, the first
29 one is the remainder of Unit 19(D) for moose. The State
30 winter season is December 1st through the 31st, the Federal
31 season is December 1st through the 15th.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: The Federal season?

34

35 MR. DeMATTEO: Is half as long as the
36 State.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Go ahead, realign that with
39 the State.

40

41 MR. DeMATTEO: The second one is for
42 coyotes in Unit 19, 21, and 24. The seasons are the same
43 but the harvest limits are different. The State harvest
44 limit is 10 coyotes, nor more than two maybe harvested
45 prior to October 1st. The Federal harvest limit is two
46 coyotes for the entire season.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAM: Take it on.

49

50 MR. DeMATTEO: The next one was shared to

00269

1 me by the Council, Mr. Chair, it's not one to align with
2 the season but there was some concern of moose in Unit
3 21(D) about eliminating the cow season during the September
4 season, and I think that was also shared before. So this
5 is not an alignment, this is something totally new.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Let's keep that one
8 separate.

9
10 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay.

11
12 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, for your
13 information, that one is already being addressed by Randy
14 Rogers who agreed to submit it simultaneously to the State
15 and to the Feds.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: Did you understand that
18 because Randy said he would submit it on our behalf, right?
19 Let's hope he does. There is a motion on the floor, with
20 the consent of the second to deal with all these proposals.
21 Any further discussion?

22
23 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
26 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Do you have
35 any other new proposals?

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we don't have new ones
38 but you discussed them earlier and we need to see if you
39 want to submit a proposal. During comments, Benedict Jones
40 mentioned about changing the February season because of
41 coldness. If you only did that on one side you would have
42 a longer season than maybe -- because on Federal we would
43 have -- I don't know if I have the dates here, 1st through
44 the 10th, and if you changed it on the State side you'd
45 have the 10th through the 25th, I think. I have the 15th
46 down here.

47
48 MR. JONES: 15th.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: 15th?

00270

1 MR. JONES: Yeah.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: So I think, does the Council
4 want to submit a proposal parallel to what's going to the
5 Board of Game, assuming one is going to the Board of Game?

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAM: From this Council the
8 Federal Subsistence Board?

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Because didn't the
11 joint meeting in Huslia say they were going to submit a
12 proposal?

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: But that was to the State,
15 wasn't it, State Board of Game?

16

17 MR. JONES: State Board, yeah.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, let's submit one from
20 this Council to the Subsistence Board.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: And the dates again were
23 what?

24

25 MR. JONES: February 5th to February 15th.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Move it down 10 days?

28

29 MR. JONES: No, move it -- because of the
30 cold weather, the first week of February is cold so we
31 moved from the 1st of February, which is the State is
32 opening right now, so we move it from the 5th to the 15th
33 of February.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ten days to hunt, February
36 5th through 15th?

37

38 MR. JONES: Yeah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that 21(D)?

41

42 MR. JONES: 21(D), I think it was 24, too,
43 I'm not too sure but it was 21(D).

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah.

46

47 MR. HENRY: Because in 24 in 1974 it was 70
48 below February 24th.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, we do have a call for

00271

1 a proposal, was that in the form of a motion? Did you want
2 that in the form of a motion so that.....

3
4 MR. JONES: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM:we could introduce to
7 the Federal Board?

8
9 MR. JONES: Yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Is there a second?

12
13 MR. STICKMAN: I second.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Moved and seconded. So it
16 is 21(D)?

17
18 MR. JONES: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Do you have the gist
21 of the proposal, from February 5th through the 15th season?

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Correct.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Any further.....

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAM:discussion?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Sorry.

32
33 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: If not all those in favor of
36 submitting this new proposal signify by saying aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Vince.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: There's only one other
47 proposal and it may not be an issue, okay. So at your
48 meeting last time you talked about with Glenn Stout the
49 need for proposals both to the Board of Game and to the
50 Federal Subsistence Board to have a winter season similar

00272

1 to Unit 20(F) caribou hunt for the Ray Mountain Herd in the
2 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge portion of Unit 24. That's
3 how I captured it. And that's the full length of my
4 knowledge. But there seems to be some hole -- donut hole
5 in the middle of Kanuti on some kind of season there that
6 needed -- and I don't know if Lisa's up -- aware of that.
7 I know Barry talked to me about it at length.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: And I don't know if Fish and
12 Game knows of a proposal going to the Board of Game to
13 address this need for a caribou season for the Ray Mountain
14 Herd in a portion of Unit 24.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, at this time I'd like
17 to call Greg and Lisa back up, Kanuti Wildlife. Do you
18 know where we're at? Are you aware of this issue?

19
20 MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

23
24 MR. McCLELLAN: I guess there was some
25 discussion at last year's meeting, and I apologize, we kind
26 of dropped the ball on this. But Barry Whitehill, the
27 assistant manager of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
28 talking with folks in Allakaket and was receiving from them
29 information about hunting caribou during the winter. And
30 under the current regulations in Unit 24 there's one area
31 that -- the Kanuti River drainage up stream from and
32 including Kanuti/Chalatna Creek and the Fish Creek and
33 Bonanza Creek drainages to the South Forth Koyukuk River,
34 the season is August 10th through September 30th and a
35 limit of one bull with the remainder of Unit 24 is a year-
36 round season with five caribou. And at the meeting last
37 year, as I remember it, this August 10th through September
38 30th season, the reason that's under for both the State and
39 Federal regulations is to protect the Ray Mountain Herd
40 because that was a small -- it's a small herd. But talking
41 with folks it was understood that the Ray Mountain Herd
42 doesn't normally cross the Kanuti River so the area south
43 of the Kanuti River would be the area for the Ray Mountain
44 and it's recommended that a one bull limit remain. But at
45 the meeting at Galena, Glenn Stout had made comment that he
46 thought that he could have a winter season, and in my notes
47 I wrote down that recommended looking at a season same as
48 in 20(F) which had December 1 to December 10 and then March
49 1 to March 15th as a possibility for a winter season south
50 of the Kanuti River for that Ray Mountain Herd. And then --

00273

1 but north of the Kanuti River, again, when -- since the
2 Ray Mountain Herd doesn't normally go north of the Kanuti
3 River, any caribou that are north of the Kanuti River
4 primarily caribou from the Western Arctic herd and again it
5 was felt that, you know, you might want to look at that
6 area north of the Kanuti River to include that within this
7 remainder of Unit 24 that would allow for a harvest of five
8 caribou since that's Western Arctic Caribou and not the Ray
9 Mountain Caribou.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: I'm getting totally
12 confused. For my information, k as we stand now, do we have
13 a season on that herd south of the Ray Mountains?

14
15 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, it's August 10th
16 through September 30th.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: And that's how many?

19
20 MR. McCLELLAN: It's one bull under both
21 State and Federal regulations.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAM: And that herd, the Kanuti
24 Herd is -- of the Ray Mountains is protected and closed to
25 the residents of Unit 24?

26
27 MR. McCLELLAN: No. No, this August 10th
28 through September 30th season is primarily the Ray Mountain
29 -- for the Ray Mountain Caribou Herd.

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: Primarily the season's open
36 but nobody from Allakaket can get there by boat so in
37 winter -- then you could have winter hunt.

38
39 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Samson.

42
43 MR. HENRY: August 10th to September 30th,
44 there's no way in the world.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: No way in.....

47
48 MR. HENRY:there's no way you can get
49 back there and go hunting unless you go back by helicopter.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Do we want a winter hunt
2 there? Even in the winter, I don't think we go to the
3 mountains and they stay in the mountains -- stay at the Ray
4 Mountains.

5
6 MR. HENRY: Yeah, we went after them in the
7 winter. We went up there to see how close we can get and
8 went after them, and we went all the way over the Ray --
9 almost to Ray River before we caught them up. It's pretty
10 hard traveling up there in the rocks.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Lisa.

13
14 MS. SAPERSTEIN: I wasn't at the meetings
15 when this was brought up but if I recall correctly, right
16 now there's that five caribou winter season, July 1st
17 through May 1st north of the Chalatna River, and there's
18 talk of basically extending that south between the Chalatna
19 River and Kanuti River allowing the take of five caribou
20 per day. So it would extend that five caribou take between
21 the Chalatna Creek and the Kanuti River because people
22 would hunt north of that. And I think Barry was concerned
23 about traditional use of the Saplimikeik Lake (ph) area
24 which would not have been included in that proposed
25 extension.

26
27 So right now five caribou are allowed to be taken
28 north of Chalatna Creek and the proposal was to extend that
29 from Chalatna Creek to Kanuti River, which is not a huge
30 area but there is some land in there that people felt
31 people traditionally hunted on, particularly when they were
32 going beaver trapping.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Samson.

35
36 MR. HENRY: Yeah, we were talking about Ray
37 River Herd awhile ago. The Ray River Herd, that's on the
38 south side of the Kanuti River.

39
40 MR. McCLELLAN: Correct.

41
42 MR. HENRY: And up in the Ray Mountains.

43
44 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah. It was felt from the
45 information Barry had was that north of the Kanuti River --
46 again if there were any caribou there's not -- caribou
47 aren't found there every year but if there were any caribou
48 they were usually from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,
49 which is primarily this remainder of Unit 24 is Western
50 Arctic Caribou and that's the five caribou a day.

00275

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, where are we trying to
2 go on here, I'm getting confused again? Vince.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: I think the best option right
5 now would be to submit a proposal to have that season and
6 you could withdraw it at your next meeting if it's not
7 clear. I'm not sure if the State -- if there's any
8 indication and, of course, the State can't predict what
9 proposals come in, but do they feel there is one imminent
10 to go on the State side to create a season, I don't know.

11
12 The heads are nodding that there is one, okay.
13 From David James, that he's saying, affirmative that on the
14 State side. So if we play that out, then you have an
15 opportunity next year if you want to align next year, next
16 cycle, right, Staff? Yeah. If that passes. If not, then
17 you would have to wait a year to get that under Federal --
18 on only Federal lands. So you could submit a proposal or
19 wait to see how the one survives on the Board of Game side.

20
21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I make a
22 motion.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: And the State hunt would
25 allow everyone to hunt.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I would make a
28 motion that Kanuti Wildlife Refuge draft a proposal that
29 would include the area north of the Kanuti River in the
30 five caribou a day and the area to the south in that 20(F)
31 season of -- what is it again, the season, there's a winter
32 hunt, two winter hunts.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Two winter hunts.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: It's a two week season in
37 December and a two week season in March.

38
39 MR. McCLELLAN: Right.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: And then people in Allakaket
42 can review this proposal and comment on their use in that
43 area.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

46
47 MR. STICKMAN: I second the motion.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, it's been seconded.
50 Is that clear where we're trying to go?

00276

1 MR. McCLELLAN: Yes.

2
3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: I'm not.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: I'm not clear. Is the Refuge
10 then submitting a proposal to the Federal Board on this, is
11 that what is being discussed here?

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAM: On our behalf.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: We need that clear.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SAM: On our behalf maybe, right?

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Whatever. The refuges, in
20 the past, did submit proposals. I don't know what their
21 present policy is on submitting proposals or are you saying
22 you want them to write it under your name?

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: That's right. Jack.

25
26 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, through
27 discussion of Barry Whitehill with the people at Allakaket
28 he realized this problem. So the Kanuti Wildlife Refuge
29 can write it for the Western Interior if they feel prone
30 that way or propose it from the Refuge point, I'm not sure
31 which avenue to take as long as the proposal is put into
32 the Federal packet. You know, I would entertain the
33 Western Interior making that proposal.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

36
37 MR. McCLELLAN: Yeah, I think that might be
38 the easiest, just have the Western Interior and we can work
39 with Pete.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, get it to Vince's desk.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, we can definitely do
44 that. And I'll write that up for you in consultation with
45 Lisa and Greg to get the wording. And obviously, like we
46 said before, you can amend it or whatever at your next
47 meeting.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: Or withdraw it.

50

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1 MR. MATHEWS: I think Pet's just trying to
2 confirm that for sure there is one on the State side that's
3 coming forward.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, David.
6

7 MR. JAMES: Mr. Chair, David James, Alaska
8 Fish and Game. I discussed this at length last winter with
9 Barry when this issue came up. We looked at it, I
10 discussed it with our caribou research biologist who has a
11 long history of dealing with the Ray Mountain Herd. And
12 tentatively it looked like it would be pretty simple to get
13 a fix that would make the State and the Federal regulations
14 consistent. So we haven't got the proposal put together
15 yet, Glenn's been busy, as you know, with the moose thing
16 on the Koyukuk, but we will. We'll coordinate with the
17 Kanuti Refuge and make sure that they're in accordance. At
18 this time I don't expect there'll be any problem, I think
19 they can look the same when we're done.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. There is a
22 motion on the floor, it has ben seconded. Any further
23 discussion?

24
25 MR. STICKMAN: Question.
26

27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky.
28 Question's been called for. All those in favor of the
29 motion signify by saying aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.
34

35 (No opposing votes)
36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Do we have
38 any other proposals?

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: No.....
41

42 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.....
43

44 MR. MATHEWS:Mr. Chairman. And I
45 know your policy has always been that.....
46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Kanuti.
48

49 MR. MATHEWS:this is an open public
50 meeting, and I just want the record to reflect that if

00278

1 there is anybody here that has a proposal they can come
2 forward.

3
4 MR. STICKMAN: Mr. Chairman.

5
6 MR. MATHEWS: There is no one that.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Micky's got one.

9
10 MR. STICKMAN: There is one more proposal
11 going to the State from the joint board meeting in Huslia
12 and that was for controlled use area in the Kaiyuh Flats.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: That would have to be
15 directed to the State, right?

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. Correct.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does this.....

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: It would be more effective on
22 the State side.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, but.....

25
26 MR. STICKMAN: I mean it's already going to
27 the State from the joint board meeting in Huslia.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Correct.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SAM: So you're asking?

32
33 MR. STICKMAN: I mean would we have to
34 have.....

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Well, depending on when you
37 set your next meeting date. If you met before the Board of
38 Game you -- before March 3rd when they meet, you could pass
39 a recommendation on to the Board of Game supporting or
40 rejecting that proposal.

41
42 MR. JONES: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: Benedict.

45
46 MR. JONES: Yeah, I brought the question on
47 that because I was looking at the Kaiyuh Flat, there is
48 mostly State lands and there is some private lands in there
49 but I don't know how much of it has Federal land in there.
50 Because that's -- most of the land is above the high water

00279

1 mark, I mean below high water mark.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: So it would be more
4 effective to go to the State? Can we write a letter of
5 support of do we want to?

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think Ida has a
8 comment.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: But yes, you can always have
13 a letter of support or recommendation.

14

15 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, Ida
16 Hildebrand, BIA, Staff Committee member. Controlled use
17 area is State designation not a Federal designation.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: What's that?

20

21 MS. HILDEBRAND: It's a State law
22 designation not a Federal designation is why it's going to
23 the State. If you would like to write a letter of support
24 you're certainly free to do that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. It's going to be a
27 tough one to get approved, no matter what because of State --
28 I think it has to go through the State Legislature?

29

30 MS. HILDEBRAND: It has to go through the
31 State process.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: I think so, yeah.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think the
36 best way would be, if you do meet before the Board of Game,
37 take it up at that time and we can bring the Board of Game
38 proposals here at your next meeting if you.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, is that fine Micky?

41

42 MR. STICKMAN: Actually a letter of support
43 wouldn't hurt nothing.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: It wouldn't hurt, no.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Go ahead draft one up
48 and fax me a copy so I can sign it.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. A letter of support

00280

1 for -- the proposal has been submitted, correct?

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah, it has been or.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Or it will be.

6

7 MR. STICKMAN:it will be.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAM: In support of the Kaiyuh
10 controlled use area, is that it?

11

12 MR. STICKMAN: Yeah.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: David James, clarification.

15

16 MR. JAMES: David James. State controlled
17 use areas come under state wide regulations. The state
18 wide regulations are dealt with normally in January and,
19 furthermore, they're all split in half so each category
20 comes up once actually every four years unless it's
21 petitioned, you know, in between time, and I don't have
22 that information with me so I don't know if controlled use
23 areas are up for discussion at the January meeting. If
24 they are, the deadline for proposals is October 29th, which
25 is not very far away. So all I can do is raise that as a
26 potential flag. We'll need to check into it and see if
27 it's even up for discussion in January. So anyway, I can
28 help Vince out with that when we get back to Fairbanks to
29 clarify it.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: And it's obvious, you're not
32 submitting a proposal, you're submitting a letter of
33 support and we need to make clear -- it would be easier if
34 it was a motion and seconded and passed on that letter of
35 support so it's clear for the record.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that in the form of the
38 motion?

39

40 MR. STICKMAN: Okay, I make a motion for a
41 letter of support for the joint committee of the Koyukuk
42 River and the middle Yukon Advisory, it's a proposal to the
43 State Board of Game for controlled use area in the Kaiyuh
44 Flats.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay is there a second?

47

48 MR. HENRY: Second.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further discussion?

00281

1 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question has been called
4 for, again, this is a letter of support. Question has been
5 called for. All in favor of the motion signify by saying
6 aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Any further
15 proposals? Thank you David James, and I'll be sitting back
16 waiting to hear from you and Vince and thank you for
17 offering your help on this proposal.

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Vince, where are we, I got
22 scribbles all over?

23

24 MR. MATHEWS:that brings you up to
25 review of council charter which is a very fast item
26 depending on how you want to address that.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAM: I don't remember what that
29 consists of.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Your charter comes up every
32 two years. The charter establishes this group. Basically
33 you can look at changing your name, changing your
34 boundaries, changing what requirements are for removal.
35 Several councils have addressed the requirements for
36 removal. And I'm missing the other ones but I believe
37 those are the basic items that you can address in your
38 charter. Specific resource commission appointments and
39 size of membership.

40

41 You've already discussed size of membership, that
42 you're comfortable with that size. I don't know if you
43 want a boundary change, I would not recommend a name
44 change, and criteria for removal has been discussed at
45 three or four councils that Ida may brief you on where
46 they've dealt with that. That might help you, which will
47 be critical with fisheries when we get down there if you
48 have a member that needs to be removed.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ida.

00282

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, Ida
2 Hildebrand, BIA, Staff Committee member. The main concern
3 of all the councils is the omission of the word unexcused.
4 That a member may be removed for two consecutive unexcused
5 absences. And for some reason the word unexcused is not in
6 any of the charters that are presented with councils. And
7 other councils have discussed creating policies about
8 removal of officers or removal of members, that is not a
9 part of the charter, but a separate discussion for the
10 charter.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: So it's going to be
13 discussed anyway with or without our input?

14
15 MS. HILDEBRAND: If the regional councils
16 wish to create a policy then it would not be changed or
17 created without all councils being involved. And at this
18 time it's just a matter of whether you just accept your
19 charter before you as is and perhaps add the word,
20 unexcused to, removal for two consecutive unexcused
21 absences.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: And then we would report back
24 to you at your next meeting. At your next meeting is when
25 you formally pass your charter.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Does the Board want to delve
28 into this issue at all?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: You've not had a problem with
31 that region but that doesn't mean that at some point you'd
32 want to have that unexcused in there.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. What action do we
35 need then?

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: I would say that you'd
38 recommend that you would like your charter to be amended to
39 add two unexcused consecutive meetings.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

42
43 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I make the
44 motion that the charter be amended to, under removal of
45 members, that the word be inserted, two unexcused absences.

46
47 MR. STICKMAN: I second the motion.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and seconded
50 to amend our charter. Any further discussion?

00283

1 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.

4 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. Next.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings you

15 up to elections. You've already done appointments to

16 subsistence resource commissions.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: We've already done that.

19 It's getting close to closing time now. How did we handle

20 this last time?

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: You just went down by

23 nominations, et cetera.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAM: Uh-huh.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: If you need to nominate you

28 can give your Chairman -- Chair -- turn the board over to --

29 I'm trying figure out who the secretary is at this time,

30 you don't have a vice chair but I'll look it up as to who

31 your secretary is.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAM: I forgot, too, but I think

34 it's Angela.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: Angela, so she's not here.

37 So you could just go ahead with nominations for the.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: All right.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: You go first with the Chair,

42 vice chair and then secretary.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: At this time I'd like to

45 open the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Western

46 Interior Regional Subsistence Council. Samson.

47

48 MR. HENRY: I nominate Ron Sam for Chair

49 for the Western Interior.

50

00284

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: Any further nominations.

2

3 MR. STICKMAN: I move the nominations be
4 closed.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion on the
9 floor to close the nominations, any further discussion?

10

11 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
14 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries. I thank you
23 and I hope to do a better job at all the meetings. I am a
24 bit confrontational at times as you all noticed.

25

26 At this time I would like to open the floor for
27 nominations for vice chair.

28

29 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman, I nominate Ray
30 Collins for vice chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Ray Collins has been
33 nominated. Any further nominations.

34

35 MR. JONES: I nominate Jack Reakoff for
36 vice chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff has been
39 nominated for vice chair.

40

41 MR. STICKMAN: I move the nominations be
42 closed.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion to close
45 nominations, is there a second? Is there a second?

46

47 MR. JONES: Second the motion.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAM: It's been moved and seconded
50 to close the nominations. We have two nominees we have Ray

00285

1 Collins and Jack Reakoff nominated for vice chair. All
2 those in favor of the motion closing the nominations
3 signify by saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carries.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: While they are counting the
16 ballots -- no, no, it can wait.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, there was four
19 votes for Ray Collins and three for Jack Reakoff, so Ray
20 Collins would be the vice chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you. And again, I
23 would like to thank both of you for going ahead and
24 accepting the nomination. You know that I count heavily on
25 both of you at times, thank you again. At this time I
26 would like to open the floor for nominations for
27 secretary/treasurer; do we have any money?

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: It's just secretary no
30 treasurer.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: But it will be an important
35 position as we get more busy with fisheries. Up until this
36 point it's been, you know, as other -- as the Chair and
37 vice chair is not available then the secretary fills in.

38
39 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I would
40 nominate Jack Reakoff.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack Reakoff has been
43 nominated.

44
45 MR. JONES: I move that nominations be
46 closed.

47
48 MR. STICKMAN: I second the nomination -- I
49 second the motion.

50

00286

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion on the
2 floor and it's been seconded that the nominations be
3 closed.

4
5 MR. STICKMAN: Question.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Question's been called for.
8 All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed.

13
14 (No opposing votes)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAM: Jack, congratulations.

17
18 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that brings us
21 up to the closing comments but you may want to do future
22 meeting plans first and then close with comments.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, I'd like to get to the
25 meeting place, it's getting late.

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: So the future location for
28 meeting and dates.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: We've been discussing this
31 every evening and I think we've darn near come to a
32 consensus that we go ahead and joint meet with Eastern
33 Interior at Fairbanks for our next meeting.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, let me
36 understand that. Do you want to meet concurrent on one day
37 and then meet separately on another day just on your
38 issues?

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Right now Eastern is meeting
43 on the 22nd and 23rd so then you would meet on.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Of?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Of February. You would meet
48 on the 23rd and 24th.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is that fine with everybody?

00287

1 These dates are tentative?

2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAM: Or are we pretty well locked
6 in under.....

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: No, they're not locked in yet
9 but I think since Fairbanks there's not a problem getting
10 locations.

11
12 MR. NICHOLIA: Mr. Chair, we do have an
13 alternate date of the next week.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, February 29th and March
18 1st. They went with an alternate because I've always asked
19 for one in case there's a problem.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: So you would concur with
24 their.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Request.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS:first choice and second
29 choice and then they would start off first, meet jointly,
30 and then you would finish your meeting up.

31
32 MR. STICKMAN: Do we have to make a motion?

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAM: I would like it in a motion
35 form.

36
37 MR. STICKMAN: Okay. I'd like to make a
38 motion that we have a joint meeting with the Eastern
39 Interior?

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAM: At February, next February?

42
43 MR. STICKMAN: Yes.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes. Is there a second?

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAM: There's a motion on the
50 floor to joint meet with Eastern Interior February of next

00288

1 year. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying
2 aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN SAM: Before we go any further, we
11 have also come close to a consensus because of all the
12 proposals and all the activity in the lower Koyukuk, we
13 would like to keep in mind our next fall meeting at the
14 site of Nulato. We'd like to meet in Nulato.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Next fall?

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yeah, next fall. Because
19 we'd like to see if we have any success with all the moose
20 proposals that we are submitting. Yes.

21
22 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to
23 let you know as has been brought up in the Moose Hunter's
24 Working Group, the State is being currently being sued by
25 the Koyukuk River Tribal Moose Management Coalition or
26 something along those lines, anyway, the trial date is
27 scheduled for February 21st. So we, Division of
28 Subsistence and Division of Wildlife Conservation probably
29 wouldn't be able to make that meeting, just so you know.
30 That 21st, the 22nd and 23rd because the trial supposed to
31 start that week.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAM: And how long do you expect
34 it to last?

35
36 MS. WHEELER: Anybody's guess.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Are we being drug into it?

39
40 MS. WHEELER: Well, we're being drug into
41 it so I guess by association, I guess you are, too. Just
42 to let you know.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SAM: We'll be there to celebrate
45 or something. Thank you for the information. Any further
46 discussion on the meeting dates and times? We've pretty
47 much locked ourselves into.....

48
49 MR. COLLINS: The date in February, could
50 you say that again?

00289

1 CHAIRMAN SAM: 23rd and 24th for ourselves.

2

3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAM: We meet with the Eastern
6 Interior on the 23rd and we have our separate meeting on
7 the 24th.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on that, I
10 think Ray understands that generally we block out that week
11 because I'm getting Staff reminding me that two days may
12 not cut it. So essentially you're saying is during that
13 week you want an overlap with Eastern Interior and we'll
14 work out the dates. So I would block out on your personal
15 calendars, pretty much, the 21st, possibly through the
16 25th, for travel and for joint meeting, okay. I just
17 didn't want to stop you with the movement there.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay, if that's fine with
20 everyone at this time, if so, I would like to open the
21 closing comments. One of the reasons we ask that is
22 because we haven't come to a complete agreement on the
23 coordinating council for fisheries. Again, we are
24 concerned about the Kuskokwim River problems, if they may
25 arise, we would like to keep them separate from the Yukon
26 River drainage, and yet try to have both rivers work
27 together. And that's what we will be addressing at our
28 next meeting.

29

30 Do you have any closing comments or concerns, Carl?

31

32 MR. MORGAN: I'd just like to thank
33 everybody for coming. It was a very informative meeting
34 and very upbeat. I think we've accomplished a lot with the
35 State, and I like that cooperation with the State and
36 Federal. And I'd like to wish you all a godspeed and we'll
37 see you again.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Carl. Ray.

40

41 MR. COLLINS: I thought it was a good
42 meeting and, I also, for once, feel like we're making some
43 progress. It looks like some things are happening from our
44 recommendations and letters. I felt good about that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Any discussion about the
49 meeting in January or February, were they going to ask
50 about dates, or calendars or preferences or what?

00290

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA, Staff
2 Committee member. The dates were discussed yesterday on
3 the January training, basically saying it looks like
4 January 25th or that week because of dependent on the
5 contract of who's letting the space. But a final notice
6 will be sent to all councils and all council members.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAM: Will you bring our meeting
9 dates into the Federal Board? Okay, thank you. Anything
10 else, Ray.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: That's all.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAM: Okay. Congratulations and
15 thank you for accepting the vice chair and again, I'd like
16 to welcome you back on board by your reappointment by the
17 secretary.

18
19 Benedict.

20
21 MR. JONES: Yeah, I'd like to thank Aniak
22 for hosting this meeting here. And it was very informative
23 with the Council and with the State and Federal government,
24 and hope to see you in Fairbanks.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Benedict. Jack.

27
28 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to thank all the
29 agency people, State and Federal for all the hard work
30 they've done on enforcement of wanton waste regulations and
31 all the resource data gathering. I also would like to
32 thank the people of Aniak for the nice hospitality there.
33 And I hope everybody has a good beginning of winter.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Jack. Again,
36 congratulations on your reappointment to this Council and
37 thank you for accepting the secretary post. Micky.

38
39 MR. STICKMAN: I'd like to thank the people
40 Aniak for their hospitality and I'd like to thank Carl for
41 his ability to put forth a bill for us for the wanton waste
42 legislation. I'd like to thank the rest of the Council
43 here and the Staff and David and Gerald from the Eastern
44 Interior. Thank you guys. I think the meeting went well.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Micky. Samson.

47
48 MR. HENRY: I'd like to thank Aniak for
49 hosting this meeting and it was really informative. And
50 I'd like to thank both Gerald and David James from Fort

00291

1 Yukon for coming here and I think we should do the same
2 thing, go to their different meetings, a couple of us or
3 whatever, you know, when they're having meetings so we can
4 have an idea of what kind of meetings they have and what
5 they talk about, since we have the same kind of problems.
6 So I think one of us or somebody should go to their
7 meetings.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Samson. David
10 James, Eastern Interior, do you have closing comments?

11
12 MR. JAMES: I'd like to thank the people of
13 Aniak and the Western Council for inviting us down here,
14 and I'm learning quite a bit there and sharing issues back
15 and forth. And we do invite the Council to come up to our
16 meeting and I'm looking forward to a joint meeting in
17 February in Fairbanks there, and I'm sure it will be a very
18 productive one there. And this is really a nice community
19 down here. I called my wife last night and I didn't know
20 you guys had mountains. But it's a nice meeting, I really
21 enjoyed this place down here. I met an old college friend
22 of mine, me and Micky last night when we were getting
23 pizza.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, David. Gerald
28 Nicholia, Eastern Interior.

29
30 MR. NICHOLIA: I'd like to thank the people
31 in Aniak for their hospitality and the Western Interior for
32 the invitation. One thing I'd like to mention, you come up
33 with any problems between Ruby and Tanana and the Yukon
34 River, I'd be glad to help you guys just call me up. I
35 think Vince has my number. I look forward to working with
36 you guys, Fairbanks, or wherever we may meet.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAM: Thank you, Gerald. Vince.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, before Henry
41 left he gave me a few comments that I think would be wise
42 to share with the full Council. He said, because I
43 consider him one of our elders, he said that I really
44 enjoyed this meeting, and I said to him, I said, well,
45 that's the first time you ever said that and he said, well,
46 I truly enjoyed this meeting and then he went on and said
47 because it was productive, I felt like we did something and
48 we accomplished something. For those that have been with
49 Henry over the years, those are very powerful words because
50 he's been frustrated with the process and frustrated with

00292

1 what is going on in his area. So for him to say that hit
2 me pretty strong so I wanted you to hear that Henry really
3 enjoyed the meeting and was looking forward to future
4 meetings because you guys are working things out that have
5 been dear to his heart.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAM: Yes, he did express his
8 gratitude or all the enforcement that the Innoko Refuge
9 people did, too. I would like to reiterate that. I'd like
10 to also thank the Wildlife Protection people and all the
11 help that they pursued and got for both Innoko and Koyukuk
12 River. Like Henry says, we are accomplishing things even
13 though we don't always see it and that's the purpose of
14 this Board, I think, even though we don't come from that
15 immediate area, we do set some goals and we meet some of
16 them. And I'd like to thank each one of our Council
17 members for participating and for your input. Thank you.

18
19 Is there anything else? Again, I'd like to thank
20 all the Staff for your presence and your -- or thanks for
21 bearing with us because I know we had everyone under a time
22 frame, time shortage, and had some people wait a long time.
23 Thanks for all your input and your help.

24
25 Is there anything else? Go ahead, Micky.

26
27 MR. STICKMAN: I make a motion to adjourn
28 the meeting.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SAM: Is there a second?

31
32 (Pause)

33
34 MR. JONES: Second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAM: You want us to keep going --
37 no, no, there's a motion to adjourn. There's a motion to
38 adjourn it's been seconded. All those in favor signify by
39 saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAM: Opposed, same sign.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAM: Motion carried. Thank you
48 again. Meeting adjourned.

49
50 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00293

1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
3) ss.
4 STATE OF ALASKA)

5 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
6 the State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
7 certify:

8 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 135 through 292
9 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME II,
10 WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL
11 PUBLIC MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the
12 14th day of October, 1999, beginning at the hour of 9:00
13 o'clock a.m. at the Aniak Community Hall, Aniak, Alaska;

14 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
15 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
16 transcribed by under my direction to the best of my
17 knowledge and ability;

18 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
19 interested in any way in this action.

20 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th day of
21 November, 1999.

22
23 _____
24 Joseph P. Kolasinski
25 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00